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Bonn politician berates Peres

BONN (R) — Hans-Juergen Wischnewski, a West German foreign policy veteran and Middle East troubleshooter, protested strongly to Israel on Tuesday about the plight of Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. "The events on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip fill me not only with worry and dismay but also with anger," said Mr. Wischnewski, in a letter to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres published in Bonn. "As a friend of the Israeli Labour Party I can no longer keep silent about the way in which Palestinians are being treated by military and civil authorities." Mr. Wischnewski, a senior member of the opposition Social Democrats, said he wanted to appeal to Mr. Peres in his capacity as chairman of the Socialist International's Middle East Committee. "I call upon you to establish inside the Israeli government that the Palestinian people's justified demands for a right to self-determination are answered politically and not militarily," Mr. Wischnewski added. In the 1970s Mr. Wischnewski was entrusted by then-Chancellor Helmut Schmidt with a number of delicate diplomatic missions.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

India gets nuclear submarine

NEW DELHI (R) — The Soviet Union handed over a nuclear-powered submarine to India on Tuesday in a lease agreement that could affect the maritime balance of power in South Asia, the official All India Radio said. The radio said the submarine was turned over to T.N. Kaul, Indian ambassador to Moscow, at the Soviet Far Eastern port of Vladivostok. The vessel was expected to sail for India within the next few days, the radio said. India thus became only the second Asian nation after China with nuclear-powered warships in its fleet. The new submarine, and other recent acquisitions, would allow India to project its naval influence far into the strategic Indian Ocean. In New Delhi, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman declined any comment on the transfer which has been the subject of speculation in the Indian press over the past few months. Indian state television said the submarine was handed over to India for training purposes only and carried no nuclear weapons. The broadcasts did not specify what type of vessel was turned over to India.

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Genscher to visit Damascus

DAMASCUS (R) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher is expected to visit Syria later this month, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said on Tuesday. SANA said Mr. Genscher was scheduled to arrive in Damascus on Jan. 14.

Iran extends draft

NICOSIA (AP) — Compulsory military service in Iran has been increased from two years to 28 months, Tehran Radio reported Tuesday.

Ershad due in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — President Hussain Mohammad Ershad of Bangladesh is to visit Iraq later this week, Iraqi and Bangladeshi sources said Tuesday. General Ershad's official visit is to start on Thursday and will last 12 hours, they said. After the visit, he will leave for Saudi Arabia, said the sources.

Rabbi gets bomb

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli parliamentarian Rabbi Menachem Porush received a booby-trapped sizzling Christmas card on Tuesday but it was defused safely, a police spokesman said. The card-bomb was the 11th to arrive in the last week carrying the same Istanbul return address with the name "Mr. D. Nissim." Two Israelis were injured when opening one of the cards.

Qadhafi, Hissene invited to talks

DAKAR (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and Chad President Hissene Habre have been invited to take part in a session — due to open here Feb. 7 — of a high-level African committee formed to settle their border conflict, official sources reported Tuesday. If they accept an invitation from Omar Bongo, president of Gabon, it would provide the first opportunity in years for a direct meeting between the two bitter rivals involved in the protracted Chad war.

Debts may be clue to Paris murder

PARIS (R) — Detectives probing Monday's shooting of a West German diplomat in central Paris believe he was murdered for private, possibly financial, motives but do not rule out a political angle, police sources said on Tuesday. The sources said the victim, Siegfried Wielspeut, appeared to have spent heavily during his 18 months in Paris, piling up heavy debts.

U.S. Senate begins INF debate Jan. 25

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz will be the first witness at Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings on the intermediate nuclear forces (INF) treaty, panel chairman Claiborne Pell said on Tuesday.

Jordan requests urgent U.N. meeting

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Jordan, as current chairman of the Arab group, on Tuesday requested an immediate meeting of the Security Council on the situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A U.N. source quoted by Reuters said the council was likely to meet on Wednesday. The council adopted a resolution on Dec. 22 strongly deploring Israeli practices and policies which violated the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, the scene of violent anti-occupation demonstrations for the past month in which at least 26 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli troops.

The resolution, approved by 14 of the council's 15 members, with the United States abstaining, referred particularly to gunfire by the Israeli army "resulting in the killing and wounding of defenceless Palestinian civilians."

The resolution requested Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to report back by Jan. 20 with recommendations "on ways and means for ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians" under Israeli occupation.

OIC begins talks

Meanwhile King Hassan of Morocco chaired a special conference of the 15-member Jerusalem Committee of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to discuss the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. OIC Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzadeh called on international organisations to exert pressure on Israel to pull out of the occupied Arab territories.

Cairo students stage anti-Israel rally

CAIRO (Agencies) — Riot police used batons and teargas on Tuesday to disperse students demonstrating against Israel's oppressive actions against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Police sources and witnesses quoted by news agencies said about 30 students, including at least two women, were arrested outside the campus of Cairo's Ain Shams university, where the demonstration began.

Reporters and photographers were barred from the campus, which normally is patrolled only by campus security men, but students alleged that plainclothes officers had entered.

In downtown Cairo, about 200 lawyers staged a peaceful anti-Israel, anti-American demonstration in the garden of the bar association headquarters. They burned a paper replica of the Israeli flag.

The protests were in a series of Cairo demonstrations against Israel that began in the middle of last week. Three security men were injured and 26 people arrested in a protest last Friday after noon Muslim prayers. All 26 have been freed on bail.

Witnesses quoted by AP said Tuesday's protest at Ain Shams began when about 500 students from the university's arts and law schools gathered on campus at mid-morning, shouting slogans condemning Israeli military measures against Palestinian protests in the occupied territories.

At least 24 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli gunfire

Israeli troops kill 2 more Arab teenagers and wound 15 others

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — At least two Palestinian teenagers were shot dead and 15 others wounded when Israeli soldiers opened fire on anti-occupation demonstrators on Tuesday, according to the Israeli army and sources quoted by news agencies.

In another day of continuing anti-Israeli protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, demonstrations were reported in Bethlehem, the Palestinian refugee camps around Jerusalem, and the towns of Qalqilya, Tul-karm and Ramallah.

The two dead Palestinians, whom local residents identified as Ali Atef Dahlan, 18, and 15-year-old Ahmad Nahrissi, were killed when Israeli soldiers opened fire at demonstrators in the Khan Younis refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

Maher Nasser, a spokesman for the United Nations agency that administers refugee camps, said Israeli troops in four or five vehicles had entered Al Shati camp where demonstrations were

taking place. He said the sky was black from the smoke of burning tyres in the town of Khan Younis



A group of Palestinian boys on trial at an Israeli military court in Nahlus

British-Israeli row flares over Mellor's jab at occupation

LONDON (Agencies) — Condemnation of Israel by British Foreign Office Junior Minister of State David Mellor, who said conditions in the Jabalya refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip were an affront to civilised values, sparked a diplomatic row on Tuesday between the two countries.

The dispute, the main front-page news Tuesday in the Times of London and other British newspapers and the lead item in radio and television news bulletins, stemmed from remarks Mr. Mellor made after visiting the

Jabalya camp near Gaza City on Monday.

Mr. Mellor told a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reporter after touring the camp where 52,000 Palestinians live: "Conditions here are I think an affront to civilised values. It's appalling that a few miles up the coast (in Israel) there is prosperity and here there is misery on a scale that rivals anything anywhere in the world."

The British government shrugged off the Israeli anger over Mr. Mellor's remarks by saying that the criticisms were in line with

and that women set tyres alight in Rafah.

The Israeli military said five Israeli soldiers were injured in stone-throwing incidents, one in Khan Younis and four others in Rafah on the border with Egypt.

An Arab reporter who witnessed the demonstration told AP sporadic protests occurred in Khan Younis in the morning and about 5,000 Palestinians gathered in Amal Square in the town

(Continued on page 3)

Rifai praises Iraqi armed forces for their heroic stand against Iran

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai praised the Iraqi armed forces Tuesday for their heroic stand in the face of Iran's aggression on Arab soil and paid tribute to the sacrifices that the Iraqis made in defence of Palestine, Jordan and Syria.

Mr. Rifai, in an interview with the Iraqi News Agency (INA) on the eve of the anniversary of the founding of the Iraqi armed forces, also said he was sending greetings from Jordan to the people and armed forces of Iraq.

Mr. Rifai said he was seizing the occasion to send greetings to and express pride in Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi armed forces, "which have maintained the highest morale and steadfastness and offered sacrifices in defence of Iraqi territory and the Arab Nation at large against Iran's aggression."

Mr. Rifai said the Iraqi people



and armed forces "have displayed rare courage in their defence of the Arab Nation throughout history in the face of external aggression."

Throughout history, he said, the Iraqi army has been offering sacrifices in defence of Palestine, Jordan and Syria and in striving

to maintain Arab identity and safeguarding Arab dignity.

"History books are abound with honourable Iraqi stands and the tombs of Iraqi martyrs stand as witness to Iraqi blood shed in defence of Arab soil," Mr. Rifai said. "The Iraqi army will continue to offer sacrifices in defence of the Arab Nation's dignity and honour and in repelling aggression directed on sacred Arab soil and will continue to be a source of pride for all Arabs," said the prime minister.

He said that the Iraqi army "is now involved in repelling aggression from the east as it did when the Arab Nation was threatened with aggression from the west."

The Iraqi heroes, he added, "had fought in defence of Al Aqsa Mosque in Palestine and defended Islamic soil in the face of the Zionist onslaught on the Holy Land."

Syria intensifies Gulf mediation

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria is sending two top officials to Arab Gulf states in a new mediation bid to end the Iran-Iraq war, Arab and Western diplomatic sources said on Tuesday.

The sources said Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa were to leave within 24 hours.

"They will visit Kuwait and a number of other Gulf states within the framework of Syria's latest mediation efforts aimed at stopping the bloodshed in the Iran-Iraq conflict," one source said.

The sources, who asked not to be named, said Mr. Khaddam and Mr. Sharaa were expected to deliver messages from President Hafez Al Assad on Syria's latest contacts with Iran to leaders of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation

Council (GCC).

They said a major Syrian concern was to stop Iran staging a new offensive into Iraqi territory on the southern waterfront opposite Basra, Iraq's second city, following a massive mobilisation of Iranian troops.

One source said Western states would see Syrian mediation in the Gulf as a "positive step and a positive development of Syria's role in the region."

Syria's state television said on Monday a shuttle by Mr. Sharaa last month paid off by creating a positive atmosphere for talks between Iran and Arab Gulf states wanting an end to the seven-year-old war.

It said Mr. Sharaa had carried

(Continued on page 3)

Carlucci says U.S. willing to discuss U.N. force for Gulf

KUWAIT (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci said Tuesday the United States was prepared to study a Soviet proposal for an international naval fleet in the Gulf, but only after U.N. action to enforce a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

He also said he would make recommendations to President Ronald Reagan if he saw that a change is needed in the role of the U.S. naval task force now

(Continued on page 5)



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Trial of Abbas Hamadei begins

Accused Lebanese calls for kidnapped German's release

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (Agencies) — An alleged Lebanese kidnapper, in a dramatic courtroom statement Tuesday, called for the release of the West German businessman he is accused of having abducted in Beirut.

Abbas Ali Hamadei went on trial on charges of kidnapping two West Germans to win freedom for his jailed brother, a Shiite Muslim accused in the June 1985 hijacking of a TWA jetliner.

Shortly before the trial started at 9.30 a.m. (0830 GMT), kidnappers still holding one of the West Germans hostage in Lebanon issued a statement. They accused West German authorities of mistreating the defendant's brother, Mohammad Ali Hamadei, who is jailed in Frankfurt while awaiting trial later this year.

In a surprise move, Abbas Hamadei started the trial in Dusseldorf with an appeal for the freedom of the remaining hostage, Rudolf Cordes.

"While the defence rejects any direct or indirect participation of (Abbas) Hamadei in the abduction of Cordes, the defence calls on the kidnappers to set him free immediately," Defence Attorney

Eckhard Hild told the crowded courtroom.

Asked by one of the judges whether it was his statement, Hamadei later responded in German: "I authorised him to read that statement."

Court officials, speaking to the Associated Press on the condition they not be further identified, confirmed that the statement was Abbas Hamadei's.

Hamadei, sporting a full beard, was dressed in a grey suit for the first day of his trial.

He was flanked by two security agents, as he entered the heavily guarded courtroom. While he was following the proceedings in German, an Arabic interpreter was standing by if he needed any help.

More than two dozen police officers will guard the heavily fortified courtroom. Witnesses are expected to include the defendant's brother, Mohammad Ali Hamadei.

The trial may provide firsthand views of the TWA hijacking. Mohammad Ali Hamadei, who is in a Frankfurt jail, was allegedly involved in the TWA hijacking that left an American sailor dead.

Abbas Ali Hamadei is being held in Dusseldorf prison for the duration of the trial and will be brought back and forth from the courtroom in an armoured police van. Dusseldorf court spokesman Klaus Farsen said.

Hamadei, 29, is accused of taking two West German businessmen hostage in Beirut in an attempt to force West Germany to release his brother.

He was arrested at Frankfurt airport on Jan. 26, 1987, after returning to West Germany from Beirut. He is charged with trying to blackmail the West German government, hostage-taking and having illegal explosives.

The trial is expected to end in March. Hamadei faces a minimum of three years in prison if convicted.

According to the indictment in the Abbas Ali Hamadei case, the defendant helped arrange the Jan. 17, 1987, kidnapping of Rudolf Cordes and the abduction of Alfred Schmidt three days

later. Schmidt was freed on Sept. 7, while Cordes remains held in Lebanon.

Bonn security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, say another brother, Abdul Hadi Hamadei, is the security chief of the Hizbollah (Party of God), a radical Shiite Muslim group with ties to Iran.

In Beirut on Monday night, the group holding Cordes warned the West German authorities to be "careful in what they do" with Abbas Ali or risk severe retaliation.

"(Bonn) must study carefully what is happening these days and learn from that. They must know that everything has a price," the Freedom Strugglers said in a statement delivered to an international news agency in Beirut.

"They should take into consideration the fact that things won't remain as they are," the statement said in Arabic. "They should know that the hostages card is not the only one or the last one. There are many other cards..."

The note was accompanied by a black-and-white photograph of an exhausted-looking Cordes.

Carlucci cancels Oman visit

MUSCAT, Oman (Agencies) — U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci has cancelled the Oman leg of his current Gulf tour, a spokesman of the U.S. embassy said Tuesday.

Mr. Carlucci arrived in Kuwait on Monday on the first leg of the tour, with an itinerary that also listed Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Oman. He is also scheduled to visit warships of the U.S. naval task force present inside the Gulf and in the Arabian Sea off the Omani coast.

The spokesman, who could not be identified by name under embassy rules, first said Mr. Carlucci's talks with Omani defence officials had been cancelled "due to unforeseen schedule conflicts."

When asked if the defence secretary would go through Oman nonetheless, the diplomat replied: "The visit to Oman has been cancelled."

Mr. Carlucci was due to have met the deputy premier for security and defence, Fahd bin Taimour Al Said, who is also the uncle of the ruler, Sultan Qaboos.

The U.S. spokesman said "the U.S. and Oman continue to share mutual interests. The defence secretary looks forward to a future visit with his Omani counterpart."

Attempts to get comment from Omani officials have so far not succeeded.

But other diplomatic sources said that Oman had only been added to Mr. Carlucci's itinerary in the last-minute preparations for the trip. Mr. Carlucci is due back in Washington on Jan. 11.

Meanwhile Iran predicted on Tuesday that U.S. naval forces in the Gulf will almost certainly be cut back and replaced by those of regional countries after Mr. Carlucci's current visit to the area.

The Iranian National News Agency IRNA, commenting on Mr. Carlucci's trip to Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, said U.S. "interference" in the region had triggered increased attacks in the Gulf, caused tension, and hit "Washington's prestige."

"It is widely expected that after the end of the defence secretary's visit, Washington will officially announce the reduction of its naval forces to the Gulf on certain pretexts, as a face saving measure," IRNA said.

The commentary, coinciding with Mr. Carlucci's arrival in Kuwait, said six regional countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) had decided in December "to boost military forces and muster up a common Arab force for active duty in the Gulf."

The six GCC states — Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar — held their annual summit last month in Riyadh.

War, hunger ravage south Sudan

By Alfred Taban
Reuters

JUBA, Sudan — Mass starvation is looming in Sudan's southern Equatoria province with rebels mining roads and blocking food convoys reaching emaciated refugees.

A senior provincial official told Reuters that war and drought had brought the spectre of starvation to 900,000 people — representing 75 per cent of Equatoria's entire population.

Refugees arriving in the provincial capital Juba said people were dying every day from diseases related to malnutrition in the barren wastelands they had deserted.

They cited Nimule on the Ugandan border as one of the worst-affected areas.

This reporter, on a two-week tour of the region, saw 7,000 destitute eking out an existence in Luluga Refugee Camp on the outskirts of Juba, largest town in southern Sudan.

Children with matchstick legs clung to exhausted mothers too weak to breast-feed them and men were reduced to walking skeletons. The camp depends entirely on erratic food handouts which were becoming increasingly rare.

"Twice I was attacked and beaten up because I dared to tell them there was simply no food and they should wait," said an official

of the private relief agency Sudan Aid.

Those in Luluga camp are among 40,000 displaced southerners who have trekked to Juba to escape the civil war raging in other parts of Equatoria.

For more than four years, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the mainly Christian and animist south has fought to topple the central Khartoum government in the predominantly Muslim and Arab north.

The fighting has made homeless at least two million of the south's six million people.

Officials said the rebels were mining roads and blowing up bridges, which meant few food convoys could get through to Equatoria from neighbouring Kenya, Zaire and Uganda.

Some 1,000 tonnes of food sent by the European community has been stuck in north east Zaire for three months because the SPLA sabotaged a bridge inside southern Sudan.

Equatoria has been the least affected of the three southern regions by the bush war. Yet an estimated 100,000 people have lost their cattle, their land or their homes in the conflict.

In Luluga, few men seemed to have the energy or the will to do anything and all in the camp depend on relief food.

Five days before Christmas, a World Food Programme consignment arrived in Juba by plane

from Khartoum.

"Without that consignment there would have been total chaos here," said Samuel Kenyi, administrative manager of a consortium of relief agencies operating in Equatoria.

Nothing would be left of the consignment by the end of January, he added.

Erratic rains mean drought for some areas this year and fighting has disrupted agricultural cycles.

Juba's Director of Agriculture Wesley Malawa Chicago said drought had wiped out 57 per cent of Equatoria's food needs for 1988 and 900,000 people were facing starvation.

"Right now, we in Juba are beginning to feel the hunger. Unless we get some aid to see us through to June when the next crop is expected from the Yei district, we will have a serious problem," said Equatoria's Deputy Governor Morris Lawia.

Equatoria's productive Yei district has traditionally bailed out the rest of the region with food but this has now changed, government officials said.

SPLA rebels appeared in Yei last August for the first time in early December, they launched a missile attack on the area.

"Nobody is planting anymore because people in Yei have run away or they just do not feel like doing anything for fear of losing whatever they have planted," said Mr. Chicago.

Sudan reports border clashes with Ethiopia

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Sudanese and Ethiopian army units exchanged rocket and artillery fire across their frontier near Gizeh, the latest hot spot in Sudan's long civil war, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported Tuesday.

If true, it would be the first reported cross-border military engagement between the two north east African neighbours, who have been feuding for years. Both accuse each other of supporting rebel movements in the other's country.

The news agency alleged that an Ethiopian unit started the fire on Sunday, two days after the government claimed to have wrested Gizeh from the Sudan People's Liberation Army. The

rebels had held the border post for three weeks.

Reporting from Gizeh, 590 kilometres south east of Khartoum, SUNA said the Ethiopian guns were "silenced" in Sunday's clash when the Sudanese returned fire. It said smoke boiled up "for a long time" on the Ethiopian side of the border.

The report said one Sudanese soldier was injured in the exchange. It said nothing about Ethiopian casualties.

Sudan contended that Ethiopian troops fought with the rebel forces, with Cuban overseers acting as advisers, when Gizeh fell and the rebels took the nearby town of Kurmuk a month earlier.

Sweden accuses Israel of terrorism in Lebanon

STOCKHOLM (R) — The Swedish government denounced Israel on Tuesday for its weekend air raids on southern Lebanon which killed 26 people, including children and a woman.

"These raids are nothing other than terrorist actions," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"The action cannot be condoned under international law and demonstrates nothing but an Israeli desire for revenge rather than a wish to attain peace," the

statement said. Lebanese security sources said the Israeli raids on Saturday were seen as retaliation for a hang glider attack in November by the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command, which killed six Israeli soldiers.

Sweden is a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause and a critic of Israel's continuing occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

UAE reopens parliament

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) president on Tuesday re-opened parliament for a two-year session after a year-long recess and warned that the Iran-Iraq war was a danger to regional security.

The war has led to foreign intervention, its continuation is a big mistake and greatly threatens Gulf security," Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan said.

His address to the Federal National Council was read on his behalf by Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Said Al Gaith. Sheikh Zaid deplored Arab division but said the differences were "merely a summer cloud that would inevitably vanish."

He praised Palestinians in Israeli-occupied Gaza and the West Bank.

"We should not remain idle towards this heroic epic," Sheikh Zaid said. He called on divided Lebanese to unite "against their common enemy."

The speech emphasised the achievements of the UAE Federation which seven sheikhdoms — Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, Umm Al Qaiwan and Fujairah — set up in 1971.

Capucci ends hunger strike

ROME (R) — Greek Catholic Archbishop Hilario Capucci said he was ending his hunger strike at midnight on Monday after a request from Palestinians threatened with expulsion from Israeli-occupied territories.

The controversial archbishop told a news conference at the Arab League offices in Rome he

felt "physically tired but morally strong" as a result of fulfilling his "pastoral duty."

An Arab League spokesman said the nine Palestinians had asked Arch. Capucci, who has been fasting for two weeks in protest at Israeli handling of unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to end his strike.

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17:10	Isaura Globo TV
17:35	Programme on Jordanian universities

18:05	Local series
19:00	Cairo Newsletter
19:10	Religious programme
20:00	Programme Review
20:05	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Studio of Art
22:30	Wrestling
22:50	News summary in Arabic
23:30	Wrestling (cont'd.)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30	Champs Elysees
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
20:30	News in Hebrew
20:40	Sports Magazine
20:50	News in Arabic
20:55	Valerie
21:00	Documentary - Well-being
21:30	Wrestling
22:00	News in English
23:20	Flood-tide

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08:30	News Summary
08:45	Morning Show Cont'd.
11:00	Men from the Ministry
11:30	Songs from Movies
12:00	News Summary
12:15	Headings
12:30	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
13:45	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instruments
14:30	Easy Listening
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News in Summary
16:05	Instruments
16:30	Old Favourites
16:45	Jordan's Today
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:45	Science Report
19:00	Music Desk
19:30	Music
19:50	Deal with a Star

20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show Cont'd.
21:15	News Summary
21:20	Evening Show Cont'd.
21:30	News Summary
21:35	Evening Show Continued
22:57	News Headlines
24:00	Close Down

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06:00	World News 06:09 24 Hours: News Summary 06:30 Britain 06:45 The World Today 07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Meridian 08:00 World News 08:30 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 Development 08:45 World News 09:00 Reflections 09:15 Classical 09:30 Current Review 09:30 Development '88 10:00 World News 10:09 British Press Review 10:15 The World Today 10:30 Financial News; Sports Roundup 10:45 Dave Gelly's Songbook 11:00 News Summary; Omnibus 11:30 Financial News; Sports Roundup 11:45 Stuart Colston's Record 12:00 World News 12:09 News About Britain 12:15 Natural Selection 12:25 A Letter from Wales 12:30 Back to Square One 13:00 Radio 4 Special 13:15 Being Human 13:25 The Farming World 13:30 Human 13:45 Sports Roundup 14:00 World News 14:09 24 Hours: News Summary 14:30 Development '88 14:45 Sports Roundup 15:00 News Summary; Outlook 15:30 Development '88 15:45 Report on Religion 16:00 Outlook: 5-Minute News 16:15 A Personal Look: Remembrance 16:30 Stop Now, It's Foundation 17:00 World News 17:15 A Personal Look at Remembrance 17:30 Finish the Flag 17:45 The World Today 18:00 World News

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Ministry plans to give electorate more time to obtain voter card

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN. — Responding to low public feedback, the Ministry of Interior said Tuesday it was considering reopening registration to allow more eligible Jordanian voters obtain their individual voter identification cards needed for casting a ballot in future parliamentary elections.

The decision, to be announced soon by Interior Minister Rajai Dajani, will give Jordan's 827,353 eligible electorate a period open for one year (ending December 1988) to fill needed applications for issuing the card.

Mr. Dajani said the step would be taken "to allow all those (electorate) who failed to obtain the card and others, whose conditions did not allow them to produce the document, to do so."

Following a five-month process which ended Thursday, offi-

cial figures revealed that only 219,882 (equal to 26.6 per cent) of Jordan's eligible voters have obtained these cards.

The final figure drew mixed reactions from both the public and officials.

While Mr. Dajani described the Dec. 31 turnout as "close to previous forecasts," a number of other officials and potential candidates termed the count as well-below the anticipated average.

They based their judgement on the fact that not more than between 50 to 60 per cent of the eligible electorate participated in previous by-elections which were held in Jordan since 1984.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Dajani said his to-be-announced decision — to extend the registration period for issuing the card — emanated from "a firm realisation" that a large portion of the electorate have not

yet comprehended the importance of the document. Hence, more time is needed to allow the electorate obtain their personal voter documents."

The document is a must for any citizen who intends to exercise his or her basic democratic rights in electing their representatives to the Lower House of Parliament, according to Jordan's new electoral law endorsed by parliament in 1986.

Though the value of this document among the general public is rather new, Mr. Dajani together with other officials and parliamentarians said the card was a key element in guaranteeing organised elections, securing individual freedom while choosing the candidate, and more importantly, circumventing any acts of forgery and manipulation which were allegedly practised by some voters in previous by-elections.

Committee proposes plan to ease traffic, beautify downtown Amman

AMMAN (Petra). — Greater Amman Municipality has been presented with a plan which entails preserving a number of side streets in the capital for pedestrians only and for building an overpass for the benefit of pedestrians crossing the main streets at downtown Amman.

The plan, presented to the municipality board at a meeting Tuesday, proposed that side streets linking King Talal Street with the Saif Al Saif Street (built on top of Amman stream) be preserved for pedestrians, and that an overpass be built over the King Faisal street to ease traffic congestion and to help develop the central shopping centre of the capital.

The plan, prepared by a technical committee, proposed changes in the direction of traffic and setting up new terminals for buses and service taxis downtown.

The plan also envisages building a wide and long stairway linking Qala'a (the Citadel) area to downtown Amman to benefit pedestrians and to prevent congestion in the downtown area.

The stairway project, the plan showed, would allow for excavation on the Qala'a archaeological site to continue and for a museum to be built nearby to house artefacts.

Addressing the meeting, Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh said that due to the traffic congestion and the narrow streets planners face difficulties in



Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh chairing the meeting of the municipality board on Tuesday (Petra photo)

districts and shopping centres in Amman with a view to create an investment climate while at the same time preserving the aesthetic and traditional character of the city.

The municipality spares no efforts in the attempts to introduce improvements at the least possible cost and with the minimum damage to districts while going ahead with development projects, the mayor said.

Mr. Rawabdeh added that the plans contained in the committee's report to the municipality came as a result of deep studies over the past three years.

Mr. Kamal Jallouqa, director of the municipality's planning department also addressed the meeting saying that due to the traffic congestion and the narrow streets planners face difficulties in

carrying out development projects in downtown Amman. This situation, he said, has also adversely affected the quality of services and commercial and touristic activities in the area.

Following the two speeches, a general discussion was opened in which Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin along with the director of the Traffic Department, the president of the Amman Chamber of Industry and several leading members of the Greater Amman Municipal Council took part.

The technical committee will hold another meeting next Tuesday to put the finishing touches to the plan before submitting it to a higher steering committee chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

Cairo students stage protest

(Continued from Page 1)

police armed with batons waded into the marchers, beating many of them, the witnesses said.

As the students began to disperse, police hurled teargas canisters at them. Some ran back to the campus, and others fled onto side streets.

Interior Minister Zaki Badr on Monday accused Islamic fundamentalists of plotting to burn down shops and the Jewish synagogue in central Cairo.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told reporters he had asked West European countries to urge Israel stop its repressive measures against Palestinians in the occupied territories.

On Monday, President Hosni Mubarak said that the anti-Israeli protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip proved beyond doubt that Israel could not ignore the Palestinian problem.

He urged Israel to join Egypt in convening an international Middle East peace conference to put an end to the vicious cycle of violence in the occupied territories.

Mr. Mubarak was addressing a banquet in honour of Bangladesh President Mohammad Hossain Ershad, who is on a four-day visit to Egypt.

"Israel must cooperate with Egypt to resume the peace march through the convening of an international conference to put an end to this frightful cycle of violence and repression," Mr. Mubarak said.

Nimr, Swedish parliamentarian discuss regional problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretary General Nabil Al Nimr Tuesday reviewed with the visiting member of the Swedish parliament, Mr. Stig Gustafsson the latest developments in the region, particularly the Iran-Iraq war. The two officials also discussed the Amman summit which was held in November and exchanged views on the efforts to end the Gulf war and to find a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In a telephone interview with the Swedish Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Lars Lomback, he said that Mr. Gustafsson during his meeting with Mr. Al Nimr expressed his country's support for the efforts to hold an international peace conference to solve the Middle East question. He also reiterated his country's support of

Jordan's efforts to convene the international conference. Mr. Gustafsson, member of the parliament from the ruling Social Democrats Party Monday started a three day visit to Jordan, during which he held and will hold meetings with parliamentarians and government officials. On Tuesday, Mr. Gustafsson also met with three deputies from the West Bank and conferred with Director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan Ele Saaf. His visit to Jordan, is part of a Middle East tour which will take him to Egypt and the occupied West Bank, to get information on the situation in the region. Mr. Gustafsson will meet with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Daudin today and will visit the Roman ruins in Jerash before leaving Amman on Thursday morning.

PSP reinforces positions

(Continued from Page 1)

enforce the measure. A pro-Syrian source told Reuters the PSP would return the helicopter if the military uncovered the killers of Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who was assassinated last June.

Mr. Junblatt has accused Mr. Gemayel of ordering the killing. The source said the PSP also wanted the military to appoint a new Druze chief of staff and immediately end the blockade.

PSP sources said Mr. Junblatt, also Lebanon's transport, tourism and public works minister, left for Damascus on Monday night for talks with Syrian officials on ways to break the deadlock.

Syria, the main foreign powerbroker in Lebanon, told the PSP and the army command on Monday the issue should be tackled calmly and without threats and intransigence, the pro-Syrian source said.

Telecommunication Minister Joseph Hashem told Beirut's Al Safir newspaper that diplomatic contacts were "focused on finding a way out to save the army's face."

In enforcing the blockade, apparently aimed at cutting food, fuel and arms shipments to the PSP, military patrol craft intercepted a Greek-flag cargo vessel sailing from the PSP-controlled port of Jiyeh.

Jiyeh, five kilometres north of Sidon, was seized by the PSP when it overran the Shouf four years ago after driving rightist militiamen and units of the Lebanese army from the area.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Al Jariri family

AMMAN (Petra). — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday delegated Assistant Chief of Royal Protocol Aiman Al Majali to convey condolences to Al Jariri family over the death of Nimrah Bakr Al Jariri.

U of J opens new computer premises

AMMAN (Petra). — A new building to house the computer section at the University of Jordan was opened Tuesday in a ceremony attended by university president, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali. Dr. Majali toured the different parts of the new building and was briefed on the functions of the two computers which were installed there. One of the computers has a capacity of 64 million bites and the other 32 million. The two computers will be used to train students and will also be at the disposal of researchers to help promote education in addition to registering students.

Zarqa prepares for Arbor Day

ZARQA (Petra). — Agriculture Department in Zarqa has distributed 120,000 forest saplings to citizens and municipalities in the governorate in preparation for the Arbor Day which falls on Jan. 15. Director of Agriculture Department in Zarqa Governorate Mohammad Al Lawzi said on Tuesday, Mr. Lawzi said that the area of forest land in the governorate is 49,500 dunums.

3,355 eligible voters for Ajloun elections

AJLOUN (Petra). — The number of voters to the municipal elections in Ajloun totalled 3,355, Ajloun District Governor Muhammad Talhoumi said on Tuesday. Elections of the municipal council will be held on Jan. 13.

Farmers granted JD 1,106,400 in loans

KARAK (Petra). — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) granted loans of JD 1,106,400 to farmers in Karak Governorate to develop irrigated and rainfed land and purchase agricultural equipment and breed livestock. Mr. Khalid Al Majali, director of the ACC office in Karak said that 85 per cent of the loans were granted for constructing drip irrigation networks and for purchasing and constructing plastic houses as well as pumps and generators. In Ma'an Governorate, the ACC also offered JD 87,000 in loans to farmers to invest in growing vegetables and field crops and in purchasing agricultural machinery.

JNRCS urges Red Cross to stop Israel's expulsions

AMMAN (J.T.). — The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) has sent a cable to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva urging it to exert all efforts to stop the Israeli authorities from deporting Arab people from their homeland.

The cable, sent by JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Qoura, referred to Article 49 of the Geneva Convention which safeguards civilians in times of war.

The JNRCS said Israel's planned deportation of Arabs is a clear violation of the international humanitarian law.

On Monday, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Daudin condemned Israel's plans for expelling nine Palestinians charged by Israel of inciting anti-occupation protests in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Daudin described as a popular uprising the protests which reportedly resulted in the death of 24 Palestinians.

A lawyer for the Arab youths to be deported said that he had filed an appeal and an Israeli review board is today due to reexamine the cases. The lawyer said that if the board upheld the decision on deportation an appeal will be made to the high court.

British-Israeli row flares

(Continued from Page 1)

reaction in the camp was a personal reaction to the conditions there. That said, he didn't say anything that has not already been laid down in official government policy many times," the spokesman added.

Asked if he considered Mr. Mellor's remarks a diplomatic affront to the Israelis, the Foreign Office spokesman replied: "His remarks were bound to have more impact made where they were. But we've said these things before and no one has taken any notice."

Britain backs international calls for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Relations between Britain and Israel were badly shaken in 1986 when Israeli nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu vanished in London after telling the Sunday Times that Israel was producing nuclear weapons.

On trial in Israel for treason and espionage, Vanunu accused the Israeli secret service of kidnapping him — a charge that brought fierce protests from London.

Mr. Mellor, touring Jabalya with Israeli officials on Monday, described conditions as an affront to civilised values.

"I am very shocked. I defy anyone to come here and not be shocked."

The Israeli embassy in London condemned what it called Mr. Mellor's unbalanced statements, saying they encouraged "extremism and disturbances."

The Foreign Office spokesman said Mr. Mellor might expect some lively debate when he met Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Tuesday.

"It might be that it becomes a little uncomfortable at times, but he (Mr. Mellor) wouldn't expect it to be otherwise."

Criticism of Mr. Mellor was not limited to Israel.

The Times of London accused him of acting irresponsibly and

simplifying the situation in the Middle East.

"For him to air his opinions so glibly raises serious questions about his political wisdom," an editorial said.

But the right-wing Daily Telegraph said Mr. Mellor's remarks reflected growing international impatience with Israel. "Israel is on respect of others' opinions," it said.

A senior Israeli government official later played down the row over Mr. Mellor's remarks, saying Britain was "a country friendly to Israel."

The Foreign Ministry director-general, Yossi Beilin, was quoted by an aide as saying Mr. Mellor's public upbraiding of the Israeli officer in the Gaza Strip was "regrettable and unnecessary."

Mr. Mellor berated an Israeli colonel at the Jabalya refugee camp after a resident said his 14-year-old son had just been arrested with other boys for throwing stones.

"Why were they arrested? I saw no stones. Why were they arrested, colonel? I think you should look into this immediately. This is not good, not good at all," Mr. Mellor said in the presence of reporters.

The Jerusalem Post, Israel's English-language daily, said Mr. Mellor "clearly exceeded the bounds of propriety by trying to score points on camera at the expense of a lieutenant-colonel who was going about his duties."

The newspaper said the incident would further heat up what was already expected to be a tense meeting with Mr. Shamir. The Post reported Mr. Shamir was already unhappy because of difficulties in arranging an official visit to Britain for himself.

The newspaper said Mr. Shamir was also peeved because British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher openly backed Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Mr. Shamir's political rival, in the row between the two men over an international Middle East peace conference.

British Labour MP affirms party commitment to hold international talks on M.E.

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — There is no significant difference of any kind between the British Labour Party and the Conservative ruling party's policies on the Palestinian question, and only minor disagreements exist over the Gulf war, said Gerald Kaufman, spokesman for the British Labour Party.

"We agree that an international peace conference should be held under the United Nations auspices, with the Palestinian people properly represented involving all concerned parties and the five permanent Security Council members," Mr. Kaufman said Monday at a lecture held at the Plaza Hotel.

Mr. Kaufman, who is also shadow prime minister, said that the Labour Party had "decided that there must be security for Israel and sovereignty for the Palestinians."

Three options are available to the Israelis, he said. "Withdrawing from the occupied territories to acceptable boundaries is in the best interest of all living there. It will ensure the continuation of a Jewish homeland with a Palestinian minority and create a Palestinian entity with arrangements for self determination and Jews living there."

One of the other alternatives is maintaining the status quo, which Mr. Kaufman said would mean continued demonstrations. The other option for Israel is annexing the occupied territories and giving the 1.5 million Palestinians full citizenship. But, Mr. Kaufman noted that the last alternative would lead to a change in the nature of the Jewish state.

"The recent disturbances on the West Bank and Gaza, and the Israeli response showed that the circumstances are untenable and that all involved parties must take the necessary steps," Mr. Kaufman said.

He said he believes that when Israel embarked on occupation they never thought that it will last for 20 years and that the result has been the creation of a Palestinian generation which does not know any rule except that of occupation and an Israeli genera-

tion which does not know beyond the 1967 borders.

During the period of questions and answers, a member in the audience objected to Mr. Kaufman's use of the word "disturbances" to describe what is occurring in the occupied territories, to which Mr. Kaufman responded that he had chosen a neutral word, an "epithet," and "what is happening is the key."

Another questioned why it took 43 years for Britain to support the Palestinians' right to self-determination. Mr. Kaufman admitted that there has been a "belated recognition" of Palestinian rights. "It is open to debate who is responsible for the wars in the region, but I do not believe that it is useful to recriminate. What is important is to see the situation, that 20 years have passed and 1.5 million Palestinians have been deprived of their civil rights and cannot build their future," he said, adding that he has consistently made a cause for Israeli withdrawal.

Mr. Kaufman told the audience that he will be going to the U.S. to speak to the Jewish population in order to accept an international conference. The strong Jewish lobby and the U.S.'s unwillingness to allow the Soviet Union to be involved in a settlement in the region have led to "muddled" and "confused" U.S. policies with regards to the region, he said.

According to him, all parties except the Likud Party are committed to an international conference. The Likud have called for direct negotiations with each party, but have refused Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) presence.

Palestinian representation remains a point of controversy between the Israeli and the British Labour Party, who share close ties and are members of Socialists International.

"Palestinian people must be represented at the international conference. In absence of genuine representative, the only available representative is the PLO. Whether an independent delegation or part of the Jordanian delegation, is something to be decided by the Palestinian people, Arab governments and Israel," he said. Israeli Labour on the other hand has agreed to PLO presence as long as the members are not well known.

When asked after the lecture whether there is any significant difference between Labour and Likud towards the Palestinians as to whether the policy and ideology they follow is one, Mr. Kaufman said "that idea is outdated. Policies evolve and parties learn from history," adding that it is in the interest of all concerned to yield land on a considerable scale than to keep the land and the people with all the consequences involved.

As for the differences between Labour and the Conservative parties on the Gulf, he said: "Overwhelmingly we are in agreement with the government. However, the difference is the published attitudes towards the U.S. and U.N. flags over vessels in the Gulf," he said.

Mr. Kaufman explained "the U.S. fleet in the Gulf and the undefined objectives could draw others unwed" and that the U.N. could allow for the U.S. to lessen their fleet without losing face, by replacing the U.S. flags with U.N. flags.

Britain which co-sponsored U.N. resolution 598 has three realistic ways to make its views known, exert influence and restrain the U.S. The first is its membership in the European Community, the second is its most powerful economic entity and third is the unique relationship between the U.S. and Britain; at the Security Council.

He added that Britain's role in the Gulf should be limited as permitted by the geographical areas.

Israeli troops kill two more Arab teenagers

(Continued from Page 1)

refugee camps around Jerusalem and in the West Bank towns of Qalqiliya, Tulkarm and Ramallah.

Residents said the new flare-up was sparked by Israel's decision to deport nine Palestinians it accuses of inciting anti-occupation protests last month.

"It's because they want to throw out these nine people and we are against that. Why should they leave their own country," one Palestinian told Reuters.

The protests in Khan Yunis seemed to be sparked by a deportation order against Hasan Ghanim Mohammad Abu Shakara, 27, who heads the "religious fundamentalist" Salfiyun organisation centred in Khan Yunis.

All nine Palestinians ordered expelled have appealed to military review boards. Palestinian leaders are threatening civil disobedience in the occupied areas if

the deportation orders are not rescinded.

Hanna Sinirra, editor of Al Fajr newspaper, said Palestinian leaders would urge 1.4 million Arabs living under military rule not to pay taxes, work in Israel or buy Israeli products.

Palestinians would be asked to boycott Israeli products, withhold labour and taxes from the Israeli market, and dress in black to protest the shooting deaths, said Mubarak Awad, a campaign organiser.

"People are open and ready to act. They got a little feeling of power (during the protests) and they don't want things to die down and return to the way they were before," said Dr. Awad, who has challenged authorities by staying in Israel after the expiry of his visa. Dr. Awad advocates non-violent resistance to the occupation.

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Israel's false facade

ISRAELI leaders appear to be deriving a savage pleasure from expelling Palestinians from their homeland, using the same old rules that the British authorities applied against Jewish terror gangs during the British mandate of Palestine. It is no secret that in 1946 the present prime minister of the Jewish state, Yitzhak Shamir, who was then known as Yitzhak Yezernitsky — head of the infamous Stern Gang — was deported to Eritrea, and the Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, was held for five months in a British prison camp near Gaza under the same "administrative detention" rules which the Israeli government is now applying against the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Having now assumed power, despite their terrorist backgrounds, Shamir, Rabin and company are very conveniently overlooking the difference that while the British authorities used the rules against them for very clear terrorist activities, including murder and sabotage in a savage quest to claim Arab land as Jewish, the Palestinians are fighting for their rights in Palestinian land and their "crimes" are limited to stone-throwing and staging violent demonstrations.

It is clear that the leaders of Israel have given up all pretences of democratic respectability, the very fact that seems to prompt the Western governments to tone down their condemnation of Israel's inhuman and barbaric practices against the Palestinian people. But, the statements coming out of Tel Aviv clearly reflect Israel's no-holds-barred policy against the Palestinians. We wonder how long would it take the leaders of the Western World to grasp the reality of the situation — that ever since the creation of Israel in 1948, the leaders of the Jewish state, who have been complaining about "world discrimination" of Jews, have been and still are practising the worst-ever form of discrimination against the Palestinian people.

What would it take for the West to tear away the false facade of the "civilised" Israeli policy and start questioning the wisdom of favouring a group of hardcore experienced terrorists, pursuing a course of "vengeance" whose main victim is the Palestinian people?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Israel's ugly face of terrorism

ISRAEL'S recent raid on Lebanon represents another ugly face of terrorism committed by Zionism against the Arab people and also displays the Zionists' lust for killing and implementing a strategy of aggression and repression far exceeding that carried out by the racist regime in South Africa. Israel, which was born and reared within the framework of terrorism, cannot but continue to behave as a terrorist state committing crimes against others and covering up for atrocities with lies and falsehoods.

Following the raid on the Palestinian camps in Lebanon the Israelis announced that it was in retaliation against resistance activity carried out inside the occupied Arab territories by freedom fighters seeking an end to occupation. They said that the raid was to avenge the troops killed in a Palestinian resistance attack on an Israeli military camp. While the Palestinian attack was directed on military positions that committed by Israel was directed against the innocent civilians resulting in the loss of life of many people mostly women and children. As the Israelis continue to launch these barbaric raids on the civilian population the world continues to ignore such atrocities and the so-called free world continues to turn a deaf ear to the cries of women and children and the bereaved families.

For us Arabs the Israeli raid makes us more convinced that Zionism and Israel continue to form a dangerous threat to our future and our existence.

Al Dustour: Violence will only be escalated

THE Israeli authorities are ignoring all condemnation by world organisations and parliaments in the East and West and are pursuing their brutal practices and committing crimes against the Arab population of Palestine. They are thus continuing to violate all international laws and principles and scoffing at U.N. principles and making a mockery of human rights. Israel's recent decision to deport nine Arab citizens after accusing them of inciting demonstrations against occupation is the latest form of Israeli atrocities which also had won condemnation from world nations. The deportation of the Palestinian youths is a clear violation of the Geneva conventions which provide for protection of citizens under occupation rule, and is seen as another step by the Israelis to suppress resistance.

The deportation of the nine Arabs is bound to further escalate the current Arab revolt against Israel's ill-practices and inhuman treatment of the Arab population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This collective punishment, which matches atrocities committed by the Pretoria regime in South Africa, constitutes another defiance of international laws and a flagrant violation of human rights.

Israel's disregard to the will of the international community and its drive to evict the Arab inhabitants call for a speedy counter action on the part of the Arab League and the U.N. Security Council.

Sawt Al Shaab: Summit spirit still prevails

AS the eight-member Arab League ministerial committee held its meeting in Amman over the past two days, the Arabs realised that the spirit of the extraordinary Arab summit was still prevailing in the Arab region. The committee meeting was an offshoot of the resolutions of the Amman summit and in implementation of the will of the Arab leaders who achieved agreement and consensus on different issues. What raises the morale of the Arab masses is the determination on the part of the Arab governments to promote the work and performance of pan-Arab organisations which in turn contribute towards the enhancement of Arab solidarity and pave the way for pan-Arab action on all fronts.

Opting for collective action on the economic level reflects a real concern over the future of Arab action and a genuine tendency towards forging a new strategy within the Arab World designed to achieve the aspirations of the Arab masses.

Reagan unlikely to revive Mideast peace efforts

By Ruth Sinai
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The ongoing violent protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza have sparked calls for renewed U.S. efforts to revive the Mideast peace process. But such action is unlikely in the waning months of President Ronald Reagan's administration, U.S. officials and analysts say.

With November elections coming up in both the United States and Israel, the U.S. government is not expected to undertake any new Mideast initiatives because of the risk of failure.

"Renewal of high-level diplomacy is not likely at all until after the elections in both countries," said Sam Lewis, the former U.S. ambassador to Israel and now the director of the congressionally funded Institute for Peace.

A State Department official, speaking on condition he not be identified, said: "It's not the most likely thing that there will be any public involvement on our side."

But low-level diplomacy will continue in search of a break-

through, he added.

Lewis noted that the Reagan administration had rejected the only major initiative proposed in recent years by the Arab World and the Soviet Union — an international forum for peace talks between Israel and the Arabs.

The United States views such a conference as opening the door for Soviet involvement in the hitherto U.S.-dominated peace diplomacy in the region, while Israel fears pressure from the participants to cede occupied land in return for peace.

U.S. Jewish leaders and Arab governments have called for stepped-up American diplomacy as an essential component in resolving the Israeli-Arab tensions that have resulted in bloody protests over the past month in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli troops seeking to quell violent demonstrations in the occupied territories have killed at least 23 Palestinians and ordered the deportation of nine others.

The United States has criticised what it called "harsh" Israeli measures against the Palestinian protesters, including the use of live ammunition, and urged res-



straint. In an unusual stand towards its main Mideast ally, the United States last week refrained from vetoing a U.N. condemnation of Israel.

for Jewish groups in the United States. The one time such direct talks were held yielded peace with Egypt in 1979 "and that still has to be the formula — direct talks," Abram said in an interview.

The pact with Egypt — the only treaty between Israel and an Arab state — was brokered by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Secretary of State George Shultz, on a Mideast visit in September, offered U.S. help for direct talks between Israel and Jordan, Abram said. But Jordan rejected the idea.

The State Department official noted that the schism within the Israeli leadership over an international conference is another factor stalling the peace process.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, a hardliner, has vetoed Israeli involvement, while his left-leaning Foreign Minister Shimon Peres supports a conference if it leads to direct Israeli-Arab talks.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will visit Washington later this month, giving the U.S. administration another opportu-

ity to discuss the Arab viewpoint. William Quandt, a researcher at the Brookings Institution, said experience has shown that U.S. governments "never have much clout in their final year. The Israelis and Arabs both figure they should wait and see what the next president will do."

Speaking in an interview, the think tank academician also said constraints of an election year are such that the Reagan administration would not want to jeopardise the Republican party's chances by adopting controversial positions likely to anger pro-Israel or pro-Arab voters.

Reagan, who will be devoting most of his remaining months in office to obtaining Senate ratification of a nuclear treaty with the Soviet Union and to preparing for a Moscow summit in early summer, has already had some disappointing experience with Mideast peace proposals.

Israel rejected out of hand his September 1982 plan for Palestinian self-rule in association with Jordan and subsequent U.S. attempts to push the opposing parties closer together have also failed.

'Star Wars' resurfaces as major obstacle to arms control

By Tony Barber
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. and Soviet differences over "Star Wars," set aside at last month Washington summit, are quickly reemerging as the problem most likely to impede progress in the superpower arms control dialogue.

While the gulf between Washington and Moscow on the issue has narrowed a little, it remains the biggest obstacle to their stated goal of slashing their arsenals of strategic nuclear missiles by 50 per cent, private U.S. analysts say.

The disagreements are clear. President Reagan wants to deploy a multi-billion-dollar land- and space-based shield to shoot down incoming missiles.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev says the programme will disrupt the nuclear balance and fuel an offensive arms race in space.

"In my view, as long as we continue to insist that we are going to deploy as soon as we can, it is highly unlikely that the Soviets will sign a treaty on strategic weapons," James Rubin of the private Arms Control Association told Reuters.

Washington and Moscow have been fighting over Star Wars since Reagan began the initiative in 1983. It led to the collapse of the 1986 superpower summit in Iceland.

But when Gorbachev and Reagan met in Washington early last month, they played down their differences on space defences to focus attention on their achievement in signing a treaty banning intermediate-range nuc-

lear missiles (INF).

Both men declared the summit a success and appeared to have agreed to disagree over Star Wars, formally called the strategic defence initiative (SDI).

But the ink was scarcely dry on the INF treaty and the summit was barely over when the two leaders made statements underlining the profound divisions between them on SDI and its implications for a strategic arms (START) accord.

In a radio address two days after Gorbachev left the United States, Reagan said: "Our bottom line on SDI is simple: We will research it, we will test it and when it is ready we will deploy it."

Gorbachev said on Soviet television: "Certain persons even try to assert that the talks in Washington have removed differences on such a problem as SDI and under that pretext make calls for speeding up work on that programme."

"I must say outright that these are dangerous tendencies and that they should not be underestimated."

Some U.S. officials and European politicians think Moscow will now revive its campaign against Star Wars and will argue anew that limits on it are a condition for a START treaty.

"We believe that it would be prudent to recognise that inevitably the USSR will reestablish the connection between SDI and strategic weapons," Italian Prime Minister Giovanni Goria said in Washington this week.

U.S. arms control negotiator Paul Nitze said Reagan's view that a START treaty must not be tied to restrictions on SDI would

certainly be challenged by Moscow before the president's planned visit to the Soviet Union in the first half of 1988.

"Hopefully, this is a matter that we will be able to resolve, but this is one of the difficult issues," he said.

Arms control analysts say that, while Reagan has shown no sign of changing his stance on SDI, Gorbachev has moved in the last two years from opposition to any type of space defence programme to acceptance that some SDI work is permissible.

"He has already very significantly compromised," Raymond Garthoff of the independent Brookings Institution told Reuters. "He has already moved a tremendous distance from the original position that SDI had to be abandoned."

The Soviets' rhetorical and substantive position has evolved," Rubin said. "The United States has basically not moved an inch."

Analysts said the Soviet compromise partly reflected an awareness that the Reagan administration is under mounting political and economic pressures to modify its SDI programme.

The Democratic-controlled Congress last month cut back funding for Star Wars in 1988 to \$1.9 billion from the \$5.7 billion Reagan had wanted. The figure could fall further as part of efforts to reduce the vast federal budget deficit.

Congress also ordered that the SDI programme through next September 30 must stay within the traditional interpretation of the 1972 U.S.-Soviet anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty.

Political shuffling reflects growing mood for change in Eastern bloc

By Alison Smale
The Associated Press

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia — Gustav Husak's replacement after 18 years as Communist Party chief in Czechoslovakia may put the country on the road to embracing reforms pushed by Mikhail Gorbachev.

But any change is likely to be gradual rather than immediate.

Prague's traditionally cautious leadership has been hesitant to follow Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria in espousing the "openness" and "restructuring" preached by the Soviet leader.

Still, Husak's replacement on Dec. 17 by the conservative Miroslav Jakes was the most startling of several party and government shake-ups in the East bloc, highlighting the political and economic change rippling through the region.

In October, the number of government ministries in Poland was cut from 26 to 19, a non-Communist became deputy premier and a dynamic factory manager was named to head a new industry ministry.

On Dec. 15, prominent Polish liberal Mieczyslaw Rakowski was named a full politburo member in the latest move by Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, party leader since 1981.

Last July, Karoly Grosz became Hungary's new premier amid a broad re-shuffle of top government and Communist Party ranks seen as preliminary maneuvering in the fight to succeed Janos Kadar as head of the party. Grosz since has announced an

unpopular austerity programme. He apparently tried to temper the programme's effects by holding out hopes of political change that possibly would give Hungary's 10.6 million people more of a say in their country's future.

Bulgaria, under the wily Todor Zhivkov, who has worked with five Kremlin leaders since rising to power in 1954, has embarked on its own version of Soviet-style reforms.

The pace of change has been so fast that some Bulgarian officials say they themselves are confused about who now manages what in the economy. A national party conference called to discuss more political and economic changes was put off from December to late January to allow more time to prepare for another re-shuffle of functions.

Romania and East Germany, the other countries in the Warsaw Pact alliance, have resisted Gorbachev's push for more expression of dissent and dynamic economic development.

Jakes used his first speech as leader on Dec. 17 to issue a strong pledge that there will be no return to the "Prague spring" reforms crushed by a Warsaw Pact invasion in 1968.

The speech was couched in the language of change that characterises Gorbachev's policies, but contained no new ideas for Czechoslovakia's immediate future.

While state newspapers carrying news of the leadership change sold out quickly in Prague on Dec. 18, many residents and Western diplomats seemed unexcited by the switchover.

"The more things change, the

more they stay the same," said one Western diplomat.

Under Husak's leadership, the government has been cautious about adopting Gorbachev's reforms, which resemble those crushed in 1968 and officially discredited ever since.

Husak took over as party leader from the liberal Alexander Dubcek, ousted in April 1969 after his "Prague spring" reforms were halted.

Gorbachev stated when visiting Prague last April that the Kremlin would not force reforms on its Socialist allies.

However, the Soviet leader expects East European countries to perform much better than they have in the past by improving technology and sending better goods to Moscow.

This makes some reform inevitable, and both the Prague and Moscow leadership may have felt this would be politically easier to achieve under Jakes rather than Husak, whose name is associated with quashing change.

However, Jakes' name is not associated with the pro-reform faction in the Prague leadership, where change has been most strongly advocated by Premier Lubomir Strougal.

Strougal visited Moscow in November, meeting Gorbachev and Nicolae Ryzhkov, and sources say he returned pleased with the backing given his ideas for change.

Jakes also has strong ties to Moscow and had a Kremlin meeting with Gorbachev on a visit a year ago.

Aquino faces corruption and injustice

By Phillip Melchior
Reuters

MANILA — Corruption and injustice, underlying problems of the Philippines, seem set to sour President Corazon Aquino's new year.

At a time when she could legitimately be celebrating, political analysts say the intractable problems faced by Aquino may make the turmoil of 1987 seem easy.

"Cory herself is now secure, but she's got pigeon-holes stuffed with problems that are going to have to be faced, and they are really hard ones," one senior Western diplomat said.

The major pigeon-holes are labelled government corruption, human rights and land reform.

The problems are not explosive and they pose no immediate threat to the strengthening grip on power held by the bespectacled, often reticent, widowed mother of five.

But analysts say they are the fundamental problems for any democratic-minded Philippine government, overshadowing almost two decades of communist insurgency and the biggest long-term problem of all, a population growing too fast to be helped by even the most optimistic economic growth forecasts.

"Nineteen eighty-seven was a touch and go year for her," Amanda Doronilla, editor of the



Corazon Aquino

respected Manila Chronicle newspaper, said in an interview. "She's been trying to survive, and very successfully, but survival alone is no longer going to be enough," he added.

Doronilla and other local and foreign analysts say the year of crises has diverted attention away from the country's root problems.

The Philippine system remains riddled with corruption, which flourished during the two decades of strongman rule by Ferdinand Marcos, now exiled.

The powerful family clans that dominate politics and business in the troubled country are showing signs of re-emerging, undermin-

ing Aquino's much praised achievements in restoring democracy.

Despite Aquino's frequent reform promises and glowingly clean personal image, coffee-shop gossip still links graft with members of her own family, who are also accused of increasingly cynical power-hoarding.

Human rights, once a major issue for Aquino, appears to have become a victim of the political realities of the country.

"It's become an embarrassment to her. She would rather forget it," Doronilla said. "She has to buy the loyalty of the military and every mention of human rights creates new tensions."

Written off by commentators at every crisis in her confrontation-ridden administration, Aquino has survived against the odds for almost two years in one of the world's toughest leadership roles.

She could, say political analysts, legitimately enjoy a measure of self-satisfaction for maintaining her grip on Malacanang, the presidential palace.

A year that began on a low note with the massacre by troops of 18 unarmed demonstrators at a protest outside Malacanang, ended in political triumph with the successful staging in strife-torn Manila of the first South-East Asian summit meeting in a decade.

In between, she battled crisis

after crisis. She successfully traversed three armed rebellions by the military and captured Colonel Gregorio Honasan, the leader of the bloody August mutiny that came nearest to toppling her and provoked months of political turmoil.

But Aquino herself appears to recognise that she has no time to relax.

While she has declined interviews recently, senior aides this week said they regarded the threat of coup attempts as "practically hushed" and had turned their attention instead to corruption.

"The president wants to speed up the drive against graft and corruption. We've made some progress but she's not too satisfied, she's asking for more vigorous action," Cabinet Secretary Jose de Jesus told reporters.

Most analysts believe the ability of the Aquino government to "muddle through" and the lack of a credible alternative leader mean she is likely to keep the tenancy of Malacanang until the end of her six-year term in 1992.

"But eventually people are going to want more than muddling through," one Asian diplomat said. "They are either going to become actively disenchanted, or they are going to be more and more apathetic."

"Either one will be dangerous for Cory and the country."

LETTERS

No 'mess-take'

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to refer to the complaint that appeared in the Jordan Times on Dec. 17, 1987 in a column by Randa Habib. Investigating the complaint, it soon became obvious that:

a) The value of the bill in question is JD 32.590 and not JD 38 as said.

b) The said total value is composed of two parts — JD 14.970 for additional local calls.

— JD 17.620 for international calls

— JD 32.590 total

c) Contrary to what was said the column, the JD 14.970 was charged against additional local calls for the year 1987 and not 1986 as the bill in question is for June 1987.

In addition, the bill shows the following printed information: Meter reading on 30/6/87 15715 units

Meter reading on 31/12/86 -11953 "

Balance 3762

Now: 3762-2000 = 1762 units

1762 units x 10 fils each = JD 17.620

d) Consequently, the complaint was officially rejected in writing immediately after receiving the written complaint from the subscriber.

I do sincerely hope that the abovementioned facts and figures will prove to you and to the subscriber that there are no "mess-takes"; the whole issue boils down to the simple fact that the subscriber was not able to read his bill correctly, consequently it is a human error on his part.

Eng. Mohammad Shahid Ismail
Director General
The Telecommunications Corporation
Amman, Jordan

30/1/88

Unlimited power cuts become a way of life in Lebanon

By Diana Abdallah
 Reuter

BEIRUT — Customers in the dark curse Musbah Natour, the Lebanese power company director whose name means "guardian of the lantern."

"Here comes Musbah's rationing again" is the lament as lights go off, televisions fade, and heaters, cookers, washing-machines and telephones stop for daily power cuts lasting at least 12 hours.

For some, the cuts mean more than misery, cold and dark. Failure of the power supplies can kill. One 50-year-old man in the north who needed daily kidney dialysis at home died when power cuts for three days in November meant he could not get treatment.

Friends and family marched on Natour's company offices to stage a protest.

The emotional strain of the cuts shows daily in the faces of many, in the flood of tears from the middle-aged woman who broke down when the electricity, restored at her apartment block

in west Beirut after a 24-hour cut, went off again after five minutes. It also shows in comments that explode during discussions of the blackouts.

"We don't care for Natour's explanations. It is no use telling us he is doing his best... we cannot buy this talk any more," exclaimed one frustrated west Beirut restaurant owner.

When asked by Reuters how he felt about being reviled by thousands as head of Electricite du Liban, Natour said: "If people knew the conditions we are working under they would congratulate me."

"I don't have power in my house and rationing applies to me like all Lebanese," said 62-year-old Natour. "People should know that we are living in a state of war that has destroyed all the public sector."

High tension cables feeding Beirut have been cut to tatters in 12 years of civil war. Lebanon's main power stations have repeatedly been targeted by gunners keen to deprive the other side of power.

Then came an economic crisis

and the collapse of any central government, which encouraged many families either not to pay their electricity bills or to hook their homes up illegally to the nearest street lamp.

"A kilowatt of electricity costs about 30 (Lebanese) pounds (six U.S. cents) but the people are paying half a pound for a kilowatt," said Natour. "And only 40 per cent are paying their bills."

"That means that we are receiving one per cent of production costs, which all goes toward paying the salaries of the authority's employees and leaves no money for maintenance."

"This is why our generators and equipment stop working most of the time, plus the fact that we have no money to buy fuel, then garbage got into the cooling system and lightning knocked out the cables."

In 1987, the company paid about three billion Lebanese pounds (\$6.5 million) to repair damage, buy spares and fuel oil, and carry out minimum and most necessary maintenance.

The company's annual income

in cash terms was about 600 million pounds (\$1.3 million).

"If stability does not return to the country and unless money is guaranteed for the electricity authority to pay its bills, then rationing is going to become permanent," Natour warned.

The extent of the power grid's destruction widens weekly although Natour does not expect total collapse of the system.

Radio and television often lead news broadcasts with latest developments on electricity. Beirut's estimated one million people found the novelty of living in the dark wore off fast.

"Candle-lit dinners were always associated with romantic encounters but here they mean darkness and gloom," said Imad Khodr, a salesman.

Many Lebanese, already hard hit by inflation and the crash of the Lebanese pound, find they have no alternative but to go to bed early when the lights go out and temperature drops.

In winter, the sun sets around 4.30 p.m. and does not reappear until 6.30 a.m. Temperatures

which can slump to zero in the hills can be down around six degrees Centigrade (42 Fahrenheit) in Beirut.

Doctors have reported a sharp increase in the number of pregnancies but cannot judge how many can be attributed to the power cuts, which have become longer and more common in the last three years.

For those who sit in the dark hour after hour, a favourite topic of gossip is speculating about who gains from the power shortage—in particular, agents selling portable generators.

Business sources said generators worth two billion pounds (\$4.4 million) were bought by Lebanese in the past three months at between 160,000 pounds (\$350) and 320,000 pounds (\$700) each.

One Beirut salesman said his profit from one month's sales of generators was about seven million pounds (\$15,000) though buyers have to hunt for scarce fuel to get them working.

Pavements in west Beirut's main shopping area, Hamra

Street, are littered with scores of generators producing a deafening noise and clouds of exhaust fumes as well as the power to allow businesses to open.

Most middle-class families cannot afford a generator for use in the home. And during cuts even the comfort of television goes, except for those who have car batteries to supply portable sets.

"The talk used to be about which best sellers were playing on television and the latest video films we saw, but now we are deprived even of this small pleasure," said Khodr.

Women complain rationing means they have to complete chores like laundry, cooking and ironing at odd hours, even as early as 2 a.m., while on warm days food turns rotten in refrigerators.

Unless one wants a cold shower or bath in the gloom, washing has to be timed to coincide with the neighbourhood having power.

Punctuated by the whine of a few generators, darkness envelops much of Beirut from the late afternoon until morning.

U.S. willing to discuss U.N. force

(Continued from page 1)

guarding American-flagged vessels.

"If there are some changes that I think need to be made," I'll make the appropriate recommendations to the president," Mr. Carlucci told a news conference.

He had been asked if there would be any change in the U.S. navy's rules of engagement in the Gulf as a result of his visit.

"Our current programme is to escort and defend the U.S.-flag vessels," he told reporters gathered at the U.S. embassy.

He met earlier in the day with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, and other senior officials.

Kuwait is the first leg of a tour which will take the secretary to Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. Plans to visit Oman were cancelled due to a tight schedule, according to the U.S. embassy in Muscat (See page 2).

Mr. Carlucci is to inspect the regional U.S. naval force of about 30 vessels. About 80 warships from Western countries and the Soviet Union have assembled as the menace of the war to Gulf shipping escalated in the past year.

Diplomats in the area suggested that Mr. Carlucci could return to Washington to recom-

mend expanding U.S. naval protection to cover at least vessels with U.S. interests, even if under foreign flags.

They also said Mr. Carlucci might discuss thinning the force if Iran showed signs of accepting a July 20 ceasefire demand by the U.N. Security Council.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said a reduction was expected because the U.S. naval force had "failed to minimise the attacks on ships, but has rather triggered such attacks."

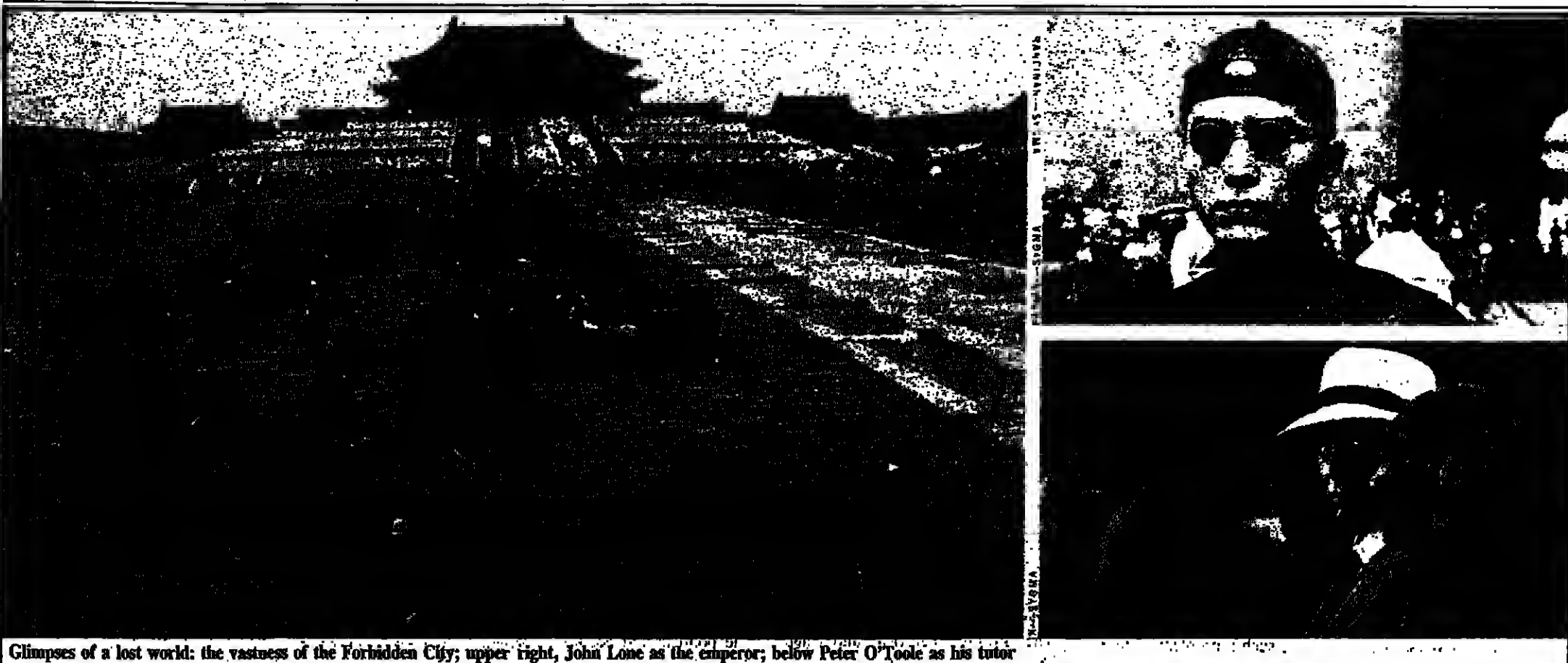
The Soviet Union has suggested that a U.N. naval force replace U.S. and other foreign naval forces to protect shipping in the Gulf.

The Soviets said the idea was a parallel proposal to a U.S.-led campaign for an arms embargo against Iran if it persists in refusing to accept the ceasefire resolution.

Mr. Carlucci described as "a very vague and inappropriate at this stage" the Soviet proposal. He said all the efforts now should be focused on a follow-up resolution to enforce the ceasefire.

He said such a resolution should "impose sanctions on the party that has refused to implement Resolution 598, that is to say Iran."

"We are beginning to get some movement in that direction. We will hope that the Soviet Union would join in," he went on.



Glimpses of a lost world: the vastness of the Forbidden City; upper right, John Lone as the emperor; below Peter O'Toole as his tutor

Bertolucci returns to glory with 'The Last Emperor'

By Richard Lormand
 Reuter

NEW YORK — Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci, who created a sensation with "Last Tango in Paris" in 1972, has returned to the spotlight with "The Last Emperor."

Bertolucci's first film in six years, this epic treatment of modern China has been cited by virtually every U.S. critic as one of the year's best.

"There are two great loves in this movie — one for cinema and one for China," the 47-year-old director told Reuters.

"The Last Emperor" chronicles the life of Pu Yi, who ascended to the throne in imperial China in 1908 aged three, and died 59 years later, a humble gardener.

Made in English, it is the first Western feature film about China

made in the country itself since the communist revolution in 1949. And it is the first film ever shot in Peking's "Forbidden City," the ancient home of Pu Yi and other Chinese rulers.

"The Last Emperor" is an epic on the grandest scale, with some 19,000 Chinese extras and 9,000 costumes.

Bringing Pu Yi's autobiography, "From Emperor to Citizen," to the screen took over four years, \$25 million and a crew of Italian, British and Chinese technicians.

As the child emperor of the Manchu Dynasty, Pu Yi lived among concubines and eunuchs inside the Forbidden City until he was deposed in 1911, when the nationalists took over.

The adult Pu Yi lived the decadent life of a playboy and served as a puppet emperor for the Japanese in Manchuria in the late

1930s. He was sent to a Chinese prison in 1945 as the Japanese empire crumbled at the end of the World War II.

After nine years, he was "re-moulded" by the communists and worked as a gardener until his death in 1967.

Chinese-American John Lone, who starred in "Year of the Dragon," portrays Pu Yi from adolescence to his death. Peter O'Toole plays Pu Yi's Scottish tutor and Chinese actress Joan Chen portrays the emperor's wife.

The crowd scenes — shot by Oscar-winning cinematographer Vittorio Storaro — include the coronation of the child-emperor in the Hall of Supreme Harmony, Pu Yi's wedding and the expulsion of the eunuchs from court by the new republic's leaders.

"The movie is an epic," said Bertolucci, "but instead of being

about a hero, it is about an anti-hero."

"He is absolutely the opposite of a Western man, who usually goes from being a doorman to being general manager," added Bertolucci, whose "The Spider's Stratagem" and "The Conformist" also dealt with political and social upheaval.

But the director said he was certain that Western audiences would have no trouble relating to the "strange itinerary" of China's last emperor.

"When you see him as a baby, you identify with him," he said. "Everyone is an emperor at home as a child."

The screenplay had to be approved by China's Culture Ministry. The Chinese considered Pu Yi's story a morality tale, with the hero becoming freer as an ordinary citizen.

Bertolucci said the Chinese

government also gave its nod of approval to the completed film after special showings, but theatrical release in China itself is undecided.

Release there, he said, would be deeply satisfying.

Bertolucci's "1900," the 1977 four-hour Italian epic starring Robert de Niro, and 1979's "Luna," an erotic mother-and-son story starring Jill Clayburgh, were box-office disappointments.

These were followed by the unsuccessful "Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man" in 1981.

The lukewarm reception to those three films forced Bertolucci to look toward the East.

"I was so frustrated," he said. "I wanted to go far away."

Bertolucci believes he was allowed to film "The Last Emperor" in China because of the social and political liberalisation under Deng Xiaoping.

Bertolucci thinks there is not the capacity for change in his native Italy — which last February finally lifted its 11-year ban on "Last Tango," a frank portrayal of a relationship between a middle-aged man and a young woman.

That rigidity, he said, has hurt Italian cinema.

For his next film, Bertolucci is considering adaptations of Paul Bowles' novel, "The Sheltering Sky," the story of an American expatriate in Morocco after World War II, and Andre Malraux's "Man's Fate."

Malraux's 1933 novel, set during the 1927 Shanghai uprising, was his first choice before "The Last Emperor." The subject matter, however, touched too many political sores and the Chinese wouldn't give him permission to film it.



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Cache of Byzantine coins found in Egypt hailed as greatest of its kind

By Mimi Mann
 The Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt announced Sunday the discovery of 820 gold coins buried 1,300 years ago under a monk's cell, a cache that Egypt's antiquities chief called the greatest find of its kind.

The coins date from the sixth and seventh centuries, the Byzantine period that bridged early Christianity with Islam.

They were buried in two small clay jars, one found broken, at Dair Al Abiad, a famous Coptic Christian monastery near Sohag, about 450 kilometres south of Cairo.

Officials of the Egyptian antiquities Organisation displayed the golden hoard Sunday on a table covered with green felt. Some were stacked against shards of the broken jar, and others were placed in neat rows beside the second jar.

"This is the greatest discovery of golden coinage in the history of Egyptian antiquities," said Ahmad Kadry, the organisation's chairman responsible for all Pharaonic, Coptic and Islamic archaeological work in Egypt. "These coins are priceless."

They're very important to the history of minting."

He said the coins, bearing likenesses of Byzantine emperors Justinian and Phocas, were minted in Constantinople. Justinian ruled for nine years in the early sixth century, Phocas for eight years almost a century later.

Kadry said the coins were found beneath a monk's cell during "systemic excavation" of the monastery in preparation for restoration work in progress.

One of Egypt's most traditional monasteries, Dair Al Abiad — the name means "white monastery" — was founded in the fourth century, during the early days of Egyptian monasticism.

Egypt's Coptic Church, founded by Saint Mark in A.D. 51, is considered the oldest Christian denomination. It gave the world the concept of monasticism, with communities of believers forming around monks and priests who isolated themselves in deserts as hermits.

Gawdat Gabra, director of Cairo's Coptic Museum, said 400 of the coins would go to his museum to begin a new collection. The rest will go to the Islamic Museum.

He said an Egyptian archaeological team found the stashed coins on Dec. 17 in a pit just west of the main monastery building. "The fact they were found at a monastery is special, and the fact they were buried in two Coptic jars makes it even more special," he said.

"This place was one of Egypt's most important institutions," Gabra told the Associated Press. "Architecturally it was different, because it resembled more a temple from the days of the pharaohs than a Christian monument. It had a big library, hospitals, many facilities serving 2,000 monks and 1,800 nuns."

Officials stressed that the discovery of the coins could lead to further information about two important but poorly documented eras of Egyptian antiquity, the early Christian and Byzantine periods.

"We don't have a great deal of information about this period," said Kadry.

"Perhaps these coins can shed light on our questions and we'll discover why they were buried in a monastery. How did they get there? We can only speculate why."

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Swiss skier wins World Cup giant slalom race

TIGNES, France (AP) — Switzerland's Vreni Schneider won a women's giant slalom race Tuesday, holding off a French challenge from Catherine Quittet and Carole Merle to score her first World Cup victory this season.

Schneider was timed in 2 minutes, 33.68 seconds for the two runs. It was her 12th career victory.

Quittet, who led after the first heat, came in second at 2:33.83. Merle had the fastest time in the second heat and placed third in 2:34.82.

Michela Figini of Switzerland was fourth with a total time of 2:35.12. She retained the overall World Cup lead with 104 points. Spain's Blanca Fernandez Ochoa, second in the season standings, had a chance for the victory but hooked a ski on the next-to-last gate of the second

heat. She was third after the first run and had the fastest intermediate time in the second, bettering Schneider.

Schneider, a 23-year-old from Elm, was second behind Quittet in the only other giant slalom this year at Piancavallo, Italy. "The first run was tight. The second course was much wider and was wonderful," Schneider said.

Quittet, from nearby Megeve, is coming back after knee injuries on both knees which sidelined her most of last season.

"I'm happy to do well. I'm content to do well after my win at Piancavallo," Quittet said. She

led Schneider by .05 second after the first run, 1:19.72 to 1:19.77. Merle was a surprising third-place finisher. Starting from 20th, she was 11th in the first heat. Then she skied the fastest second run in 1:13.30.

Figini had problems in the first run, finishing more than two seconds behind the leaders. "I had a problem with a turn and stepped on my pole," Figini said. "But I skied very well in the second run." Her time of 1:13.35 was the second-fastest in the afternoon.

Austria's Anita Wachter and Yugoslavia's Mateja Svet were fifth and sixth, respectively.

Maria Walliser of Switzerland, the two-time overall World Cup champion, came in seventh.

Debbie Armstrong, the only American to qualify for the second run, went off the course three gates from the end.

Arbitration panel to meet on Gasser's drug case

LONDON (R) — The future of Swiss runner Sandra Gasser, banned for failing a drugs test, will be discussed by a special arbitration panel later this month, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) said on Tuesday.

The arbitration panel, which has met only once before, was convened for January 18 after Gasser won a Swiss civil court ruling overturning the IAAF's two-year ban in an unprecedented legal move. IAAF general secretary John Holt said, "It is quite extraordinary," Holt said of Gasser's December court action. "We cannot stop people going to a court in their own country but we can only suggest that in the first instance they should exhaust all the possibilities within the family."

Gasser, 25, was suspended after a test for anabolic steroids on Sept. 5, the day of the 1,500 metres final at the Rome World Championships in which she

came third, and another on Sept. 23, were both positive.

She has vehemently denied taking steroids and the Swiss Athletics Federation (SAF) has lodged a formal appeal with the IAAF, saying it is not satisfied with the results of the tests.

Holt told Reuters that Gasser, who had been one of Switzerland's greatest hopes for this year's Seoul Olympics, would be invited to attend the London arbitration panel hearing, accompanied if she wished by a lawyer and a Swiss federation representative.

The SAF opposed Gasser's civil court action and refused to allow her to run in an international road race in Zurich on Dec. 27 despite the judge's ruling.

The arbitration panel, composed of Australian Robert Elliott, Evelyn Herberg of East Germany and Lauri Tarasti of Finland, will have two weeks to deliver its verdict.

Bulgaria, Poland to attend Olympics

SOFIA (Agencies) — Bulgaria and Poland said on Tuesday they will compete in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, reducing still further the likelihood of another communist-led boycott of the summer games.

Both countries joined the Soviet boycott of the 1984 games in Los Angeles. So did East Germany and Hungary, which last month said they would go to Seoul, while the Soviet Union indicated on Monday it too would compete in this year's Olympics.

Hungary and East Germany on Dec. 21 became the first Soviet Bloc countries to officially announce they would send teams to South Korea.

The Soviet Union's top sports official told a news conference in Frankfurt, West Germany, on Monday that his country intended to participate in the games in September.

Mart Gramov, chairman of the Soviet Sports Committee and chief of the National Olympic Committee (NOC), said the final decision on Soviet participation

would come at a NOC meeting Jan. 11 or 12.

All Soviet Bloc nations, except Romania, boycotted the 1984 Los

Non-aligned Yugoslavia, which left the Soviet Bloc in 1948, took part in the Los Angeles Games. The United States and many Western countries boycotted the 1980 Moscow Olympics in protest against Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

"The Bulgarian Olympic Committee supports all initiatives, as well as the efforts of International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch for finding opportunities for joint organisation of the (Seoul) Olympics by the national Olympic committees of South Korea and the Korean People's Democratic Republic (North Korea)," the BTA report said.

North Korea threatened to lead a boycott of the Seoul Games unless its demands to be made a co-host were met. South Korea has offered North Korea some sports, but the North has insisted on hosting no less than half of the events. Previous talks between the two sides under IOC auspices have failed to resolve the issue.

Yugoslavia 131st state to join Olympics

SEOUL (R) — Yugoslavia has become the third East Bloc country to confirm it will take part in the Seoul Olympics, organisers said on Tuesday.

The Seoul Olympic Organising Committee (SLOOC) said it had been told by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that 131 countries had now accepted invitations to the games.

Angeles Olympics, claiming they were not given sufficient security guarantees for their athletes.

E. German swimmer emerges victorious

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP) — East Germany's backstroking superstar Cornelia Sirch blitzed an international field to win the 200-metre by almost a second in the highlight of the second leg of the Uncle Tobys swimming challenge Tuesday.

Sirch, 22, whose best time for the distance is only 1.3 seconds off the world record, finished in 2 minutes, 12.64 seconds, ahead of Aneta Patrasciou of Romania and Nicole Livingstone of Australia.

In the competition at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre Patrasciou finished in 2:13.50 and Livingstone in 2:13.54.

The win earned Sirch the swimmer of the session award and a hefty 974 points in the international challenge.

In other events, world record holder Tamara Costache of Romania won the 50-metre freestyle. She finished in 26.06 seconds, beating Kristin Otto of East Germany, who finished in 26.49 and Livia Copariu of Romania, 26.53.

Australia's Tom Stachewicz also picked up his second gold medal of the challenge with a win in the 200-metre freestyle.

Stachewicz led from the start, finishing in 1 minute, 51.22 seconds, more than a second faster than Sven Lodziewski of East Germany, who finished in 1:52.40, followed by East German teammate Dirk Richter at 1:52.65.

NBA ROUNDUP

Cavaliers ride to victory; Spurs, Jazz and Suns lose

NEW YORK (AP) — Cliff Robinson scored 31 points and Charles Barkley added 28 to lead Philadelphia to a 122-114 victory over the Phoenix Suns, snapping the 76ers' five-game losing streak.

The Suns led 36-26 with 42 seconds remaining in the first period in the game at Philadelphia. But Robinson led a 23-7 run with 10 points to give Philadelphia a 49-43 lead and Phoenix never got closer than five points after that.

Elsewhere, Brad Daugherty came off the bench to score 25 points and Mark Price added 23 as the Cleveland Cavaliers coasted to a 122-101 victory over Denver.

A 28-4 Cleveland run, including 10 by Price, gave the Cavaliers a 38-20 lead late in the first quarter in the game at Richfield, Ohio. Denver rallied to within 50-47 midway through the second quarter, but a 19-6 spurt by the Cavaliers gave them a 69-53 half-time lead and they were never seriously threatened the rest of the way.

In another game, Larry Bird scored 28 points and Danny Ainge added 20, including six 3-point goals, to lead the Boston Celtics to a 107-99 victory over the Utah Jazz.

Kevin McHale had 24 points

for the Celtics, who had to come from behind in the fourth quarter in the game at Salt Lake City.

One minute into the final period, Utah held an 85-79 lead. But the Celtics went on a 19-5 run and held a 98-90 advantage with 4:53 remaining.

James Worthy scored 23 points and Byron Scott added 21 as the Los Angeles Lakers defeated the San Antonio Spurs 133-115 for their 11th consecutive victory. The Lakers' streak is the longest in the NBA this season and their 22-6 record is the best in the NBA.

The Lakers led 47-46 with 5:15 remaining in the first half when Kareem Abdul-Jabbar blocked Greg Anderson's dunk shot attempt by reaching through the hoop with his left hand. No goaltending was called despite vehement protests by the Spurs' players and coaches.

Los Angeles then outscored the Spurs 12-2 over the next 3:26 to take a 59-48 lead in the game at Inglewood, California. The Spurs were able to close to 69-63 early in the third quarter, but the Lakers outscored San Antonio 16-3 for an 85-66 lead.

Alvin Robertson led the Spurs with 20 points and former Laker Frank Brickowski added 16.

FIFA boss urges officials to control soccer hooliganism

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — FIFA President Joao Havelange has urged government officials to put an end to hooliganism at soccer stadiums, saying referees can deter the violence on the field, but never off it.

"We are concerned about the growing violence at football stadiums worldwide. But we must say referees only have the elements to control violence if it happens inside the field," the Brazilian told the Jornal do Brasil newspaper.

"...As to off the field hooliganism, it is up for city officials to preserve the security of the spectators. If they are not capable of doing that, they should not authorise games to be held within their jurisdictions," Havelange stated.

Havelange said in the interview that he does not want any change in the rules of soccer, "because I consider the rules of soccer absolutely perfect."

Many officials and critics are demanding a few changes in the rules of the game, aimed at making it more exciting.

For the 1990 cup finals in Italy, Havelange said, each of the 52 matches will cost FIFA \$1.2 million, adding up to total expenses of nearly \$60 million.

The FIFA chief said sponsorship of the World Cup finals are secured up until the 1998 tournament.

Welsh bid for World Cup regulation change thwarted

ZURICH (R) — A bid by Wales to change the qualifying rules for the four-team European groups in the 1990 World Cup has failed to gain the support it needed to force an alteration.

The International Football Federation (FIFA) said in a news release on Tuesday that only three nations from the 12 candidates in the three four-team groups supported Wales' request for the reintroduction of play-offs between the group runners-up.

The World Cup organising committee decided last month that the group winners and the two runners-up with the best results would qualify for the final tournament in Italy.

This meant the play-off system used in the qualifying competition for the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico was not being repeated.

Wales meet West Germany, the Netherlands and Finland in their four-team group.

Paris-Dakar time limit extended

HASSI MESSAOUD, Algeria (AP) — Organisers of the Paris-Dakar rally said Tuesday they extended the time limit for finishing the first African stage of the race after more than one-third of the field was delayed by mechanical problems or desert sands.

Nearly 200 of the competitors failed to reach this Saharan town Monday night in regulation time after a 594-kilometre (369-mile) stage from El Oued in eastern Algeria. Of the 585 drivers who left El Oued on Monday morning, only 387 made it here by the time limit.

"This conforms to our predictions," organiser Gilbert Sabine said. "We knew this stage would be pitiless. And it was."

The problems were so severe that organisers decided to extend the time limit into Tuesday afternoon for the finish of Monday's leg, but assess a 10-hour penalty for the late arrivals.

It was not immediately known how many competitors would be able to continue with Tuesday's 608-kilometre (378-mile) drive to Bordj Omar Driss.

There were 602 entrants when the race started Friday in Versailles, just outside Paris, for the three-week, 12,784-kilometre (7,982-mile) course to Dakar, Senegal.

Richards goes on rampage to secure victory

RAJKOT, India (R) — Viv Richards hammered India's bowling for an unbeaten century on Tuesday to lead West Indies to a six-wicket victory in the fourth one-day international.

Richards hit 110 as West Indies took a 3-1 lead in their eight-match series by making 222 for four in 40.1 overs in reply to India's 221 for seven in 42 overs.

The match looked evenly poised at the start of the last 10 overs of the 43-overs-a-side match, with West Indies needing 72 runs to win on a placid pitch against effective spin bowling.

But Richards tore into the left arm spin of Indian captain Ravi Shastri for three sixes in the 35th over to the dismay of some 25,000 spectators cramming the stadium.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Swede wins tennis event after shaky start

AUCKLAND (R) — Peter Lundgren of Sweden, the top seed, dropped his first two service games before scoring an emphatic 6-3, 6-4 first-round win over American Dan Cassidy in the Auckland Grand Prix tennis tournament on Tuesday. Lundgren lost the first game despite serving three aces, retrieved the break immediately but was broken again in the third game. But from then on, the world's 27th-ranked player kept a firm hold on the match, taking charge of the second set when he won four games in a row. Ramesh Krishnan of India, who won the Grand Prix event in Wellington last week, took only 68 minutes to advance to the second round, beating Frenchman Tarik Benhabiles 6-0, 6-4.

Canada wins junior hockey title

MOSCOW (AP) — A year after ending the World Junior Hockey Championship in a controversial brawl with the Soviet Union, Canada defeated Poland 9-1 Monday to claim world junior title. The victory left Canada undefeated in the eight-team tournament with a record of six wins and a tie. The Soviet Union came away with the silver medal by trouncing West Germany in the final game of the 12th annual competition.

ABC seeks bullet-proof glass in Calgary

CALGARY, Alberta (R) — Commentating at next month's Winter Olympics could be risky business judging by ABC's latest request to games organisers. The U.S. television network has asked for bullet-proof glass to protect broadcasters working near the biathlon shooting range at the Canmore Nordic Centre. ABC officials, who gave the games a substantial shot in the arm by paying more than \$300 million for the American broadcast rights, are clearly determined to reduce all risks. They also want plexiglass installed at positions in the Saddle Dome — venue of the ice hockey competition — to protect commentators from unruly spectators.

UEFA Cup clash switched to Cologne

BONN (R) — The first leg of the UEFA Cup quarterfinal tie between Bayer Leverkusen and Barcelona will be staged in Cologne, the West German club said on Tuesday. Bayer had been seeking an alternative venue because the capacity of their own Ulrich Haberland Stadium has been reduced to 20,000 because of reconstruction. Cologne's Mueggersdorfer Stadium holds 60,000 spectators. The club said it was also possible the match might be brought forward a day to March 1 so that it could be showed live on television, avoiding a clash with the main match of the round — Bayern Munich vs Real Madrid in the European Cup.

Czech skiing events called off

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Two world ski jumping cup competitions scheduled for this weekend have been called off due to lack of snow. Czechoslovak television has reported. The report quoted organisers as saying the events in Liberec and Harachov, in northern Bohemia, could not be held because of unfavourable snow conditions in the area. Czechoslovakia, like other parts of Western and Eastern Europe, has seen one of the mildest winters in many years, with temperatures up to 13 degrees C. (56 F.) and even higher. Lack of snow has forced postponement of Alpine skiing competitions in Austria, West Germany and Switzerland.

Sirch destroys top class field

ADELAIDE (R) — East German backstrokeer Cornelia Sirch destroyed a top-flight field to win the 200 metres by almost a second in the second leg of an international swimming series on Tuesday. Sirch, 22, touched in two minutes 12.64 seconds, ahead of Aneta Patrasciou of Romania. Australia's Nicole Livingstone was third and was pleased to have swum about two seconds faster than she planned but felt her turns let her down.

Coordes returns to Bayern

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — Bayern Munich, West German champions for the past three years, said on Tuesday they have re-signed former assistant trainer Egon Coordes to help them after a disappointing first half of the season. Coordes, 44, was assistant to Udo Lattek from 1984 to 1986 before leaving to become trainer of Stuttgart. But he parted company with his new club earlier this year after a series of bad results. Bayern, under new trainer Jupp Heynckes, lie third in the league three points adrift of leaders Werder Bremen, who have a game in hand.



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- Arabic language courses for foreigners (all levels)
- Music courses (Piano, German Flute, Saxophone, Guitar)
- Handicraft courses (Art of flower making, Silk Painting)

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World Bank announces cut in variable repayment rate

WASHINGTON (AP) — The World Bank announced Monday it has reduced to 7.72 per cent for the first half of 1988 its variable repayment rate on regular loans to developing countries. The previous rate was 7.76 per cent.

It was the 11th consecutive semiannual reduction since July 1, 1982, when the bank adopted its current policy of variable repayment rates, the announcement said. The rate was 11.43 per cent then. Last July 1 it was cut from 7.92 per cent to 7.76.

The new rate is calculated by adding one-half of one per cent to the weighted average cost during the half year of a pool of major World Bank borrowings settled since the start of the variable programme.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8480/90	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2960/70	Canadian dollar
	1.6127/37	Deutsche marks
	1.8140/50	Dutch guilders
	1.3122/32	Swiss francs
	33.75/78	Belgian francs
	5.4520/30	French francs
	1188/1190	Italian lire
	125.25/35	Japanese yen
	5.8600/10	Swedish crowns
	6.2875/2925	Norwegian crowns
	6.2000/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	476.90/477.30	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices drifted from the day's highs in late trading on modest profit-taking after early dollar strength and subsequent concerted European central bank intervention to support the U.S. currency lifted sentiment.

At 1609 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was 42.6 up at 1,790.1 after touching a high of 1,798.3.

Dealers said although trading volumes showed a marked improvement on Monday's low levels, an underlying mood of caution prevails as operators remain suspicious of the dollar's ability to sustain current levels.

Equities tracked Wall Street's performance in late afternoon trading, with major dollar earners featuring amongst the largest gains. ICI put on 38p to 1,145, B&A 25p to 470, Cookson a like amount at 557, Glaxo was 28p firmer at 1,028 and Reuters 27p to the good at 542. Shell gained 27p to 1,065 and Rank advanced 27p to 588 ahead of results later this month and in reaction to a recent oversold position, dealers said.

B.P. new shares were 1/2p up at 71 after a high of 73 and were by far the most actively traded shares in the market, posting a volume of 68 million shares. The Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) was again thought to feature amongst the buyers, dealers said.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Hightower Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You may feel a bit disoriented or anxious this morning, so sit down, relax, and collect your thoughts before beginning any new projects. Enjoy romance and the lighter side of life this evening.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Take care of any responsibilities which you have put off before starting on your scheduled plans. Let your superior see how talented you are.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): You may find it difficult to handle family matters because of pressing business affairs, but you'll have time to improve your home later.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): You can get much accomplished with your associates if you cooperate and work in harmony. Take care of personal calls tonight.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21): Handle an emotional affair today, then spend some time revising your budget. Work on improving a special talent.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): Take a good look at where you're headed and where you're going. Make a definite plan of action which will help you achieve your goals.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): Recognize the obstacles in your path, and find a way to remove them without changing your plans. Have a polite chat with your mate. **LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** You would be wise to use your charm if you want to achieve an important goal today. Postpone fun with your friends until your mood improves.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't break a promise you made to assist a business associate. Stick to your normal routine today, and be sure to get plenty of rest tonight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Many people will be helpful to you today if you ask politely and diplomatically. Don't forget to show your gratitude.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Study very carefully a new venture, but keep the main issue firmly in mind. Enjoy an amusement with your mate, but avoid arguing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): An influential person with an inflated ego could give you a very difficult time if you don't maintain your sense of humor tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Figure out a way to make your home more cheerful and harmonious, and you'll be happier there. Get plenty of rest tonight.

THE Daily Crossword by Stanley G. Whitten

ACROSS

- 1 Gross person
- 2 Drama
- 3 Richard of
- 4 Type size
- 5 Home of song
- 6 Do grammar
- 7 Always
- 8 Part of B.A.
- 9 Locations
- 10 Swift shed
- 11 Marches Nazi
- 12 Adverse of old
- 13 Gloria of old
- 14 Worry
- 15 Employ
- 16 Gourmand
- 17 Person coming out
- 18 Several
- 19 Author James
- 20 Holdup
- 21 Demure
- 22 Corgi and
- 23 Pupils
- 24 Lay
- 25 Dying
- 26 Obtain
- 27 Greenish blue
- 28 Feed
- 29 Mite hard
- 30 Novice
- 31 Rush letters
- 32 Consume
- 33 Zodiac sign
- 34 Out of date
- 35 USNA grad
- 36 Consume
- 37 Cheer
- 38 Leave out
- 39 Jewels
- 40 Art cult
- 41 Concepts
- 42 Conception
- 43 "My country, — of thee"
- 44 Enchant
- 45 One of the
- 46 Calendar abbr.
- 47 "Kapita"
- 48 Samwise
- 49 Goo!
- 50 Leads
- 51 An Oberon
- 52 Use a broom
- 53 Pack firmly
- 54 Ashtray's
- 55 Pickers
- 56 Tapes

DOWN

- 1 Down
- 2 Old F. money
- 3 Indian s.g.
- 4 Cockroaches
- 5 Drops
- 6 Coal oil
- 7 Under one's
- 8 charge
- 9 Suburban city
- 10 Keep an —
- 11 the ground
- 12 Novice
- 13 Rush letters
- 14 Consume
- 15 Out of date
- 16 USNA grad
- 17 Consume
- 18 Cheer
- 19 Leave out
- 20 Jewels
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- 27 Calendar abbr.
- 28 "Kapita"
- 29 Samwise
- 30 Goo!
- 31 Leads
- 32 An Oberon
- 33 Use a broom
- 34 Pack firmly
- 35 Ashtray's
- 36 Pickers
- 37 Tapes

Kuwait lifts stake in B.P. to 1.09b shares

LONDON (R) — The Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), an investment arm of the Kuwaiti government, said on Monday it had raised its stake in oil giant British Petroleum Corp. (B.P.) to 18.34 per cent from 18.03 per cent.

A KIO statement said it bought 18.5 million partly-paid B.P. shares at 71.35 pence (\$1.34) per share on Dec. 31. This brought KIO's total holding in B.P. to 1.09 billion shares.

The partly-paid B.P. shares, which were issued last October when the government sold off its remaining stake in Britain's biggest company, were the most actively traded shares in London on Monday, with 51.3 million, or more than one per cent of B.P.'s equity, changing hands by the close.

They finished the day at 73 pence (\$1.37), up 2.5 pence (4.5 cents) on last Thursday, while fully paid B.P. ordinary shares ended the day 10 pence (18.75 cents) ahead at £2.58 (\$4.84).

KIO's recent purchases of the partly-paid shares have been above a British government's 70 pence (\$1.31) support price which expires on Wednesday.

The government set the buy-back price to underpin the new B.P. share issue after it was heavily undersubscribed at its launch which followed the collapse of world stock markets in mid-October. The shares were issued at £1.20 (\$2.25) payable immediately followed by two instalments of £1.05 (\$1.97) each due next August and in April, 1989.

KIO has declined to comment on the total stake in B.P. it seeks. However, oil analysts say it may raise its holding to 29.9 per cent, above which a full bid would be required under London Stock Exchange rules.

Most oil analysts believe KIO is only interested in building up a B.P. stake as a long-term investment. But some experts say there is concern within B.P. that KIO might sell its holding to an unwelcome bidder.

Nigeria expects \$5.5b from oil

LAGOS (OPECNA) — Nigeria expects a revenue of \$5.45 billion from crude oil exports this year, President Ibrahim Babangida said in his 1988 budget speech.

Total foreign exchange budget for the year would be \$7.04 billion including public and private sector non-oil estimates and a \$500 million balance of payments support loan.

The president said oil earnings in the first three quarters of 1987 were less than projected, adding that the world oil market was largely unstable although it recorded some improvement in the last few months.

Dollar and stocks firm in Europe

LONDON (R) — The dollar rallied strongly on Tuesday after earlier central bank support and encouraged a brisk advance in share prices around the world, although dealers said new year euphoria might not last.

At one point the dollar reached 1.6155 Deutsche marks, a steep five pennings above historic lows touched on Monday at the start of the year's trading.

But dealers said the main factor behind the dollar's climb was central bank buying on Monday and that gloom about the U.S. economy and its huge deficits might weigh it down again soon.

The U.S. have not been cured by central bank intervention but, as usual, intervention will buy you time," said a senior dealer with a U.S. bank in London.

London's stock market opened 1.8 per cent higher and Frankfurt, Paris, Amsterdam and Zurich shares all gained after Tokyo — the biggest stock market — ended 1.67 per cent ahead.

The stock of dollar-earning firms, particularly carmakers like Britain's Jaguar and West Germany's BMW, got off to a flying start in Europe.

The gains in world stock prices extended a rally began early in December after the autumn crash. The rally had faltered in the closing days of 1987 when the dollar nosedived.

Gold lost its sparkle for investors.

tors and slipped about \$3 to be fixed in London on Monday at \$477.30 an ounce at six week lows. It touched \$500 in mid-December.

The dollar was also helped by news that U.S. spending on construction rose 2.2 per cent in November, seen as a positive sign for the economy, and by statements by French government officials about secret clauses in an agreement last month by the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations.

The accord publicly said they did not want the dollar, down almost 25 per cent in 1987, to keep sliding. News reports said the secret clauses pledged central banks to prop it up.

Since Oct. 16 the dollar has steadily declined from 1.80 marks. On the first day of 1988's trading, the dollar ended at 1.5855 marks and 122.85 Japanese yen and started Tuesday at 1.6045 and 124.75 in London.

The dollar began 1988 worth about 1.90 marks and 160 yen.

Apart from the intervention, Monday's decision by major Swiss banks to cut the rate on customer time deposits by 1/4 to 1/2 percentage point also encouraged dollar buying.

Many economists expect U.S. trade figures for November, due on Jan. 15, to show a strong improvement on October's record \$17.63 billion shortfall.

Signs of a sustained improvement in the U.S. trade deficit would encourage the view that the dollar has fallen enough, dealers said.

"If we had a pleasant surprise on the trade and no negative political news out of the U.S., the potential would be there for 1.68 (marks)," said one London dealer. At this point central banks might intervene to hold the dollar down, he added.

The strong dollar, and a rise in the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street on Monday of 76.42 points to break above the 2,000 barrier, were the factors buoying stocks on Tuesday.

Tokyo's Nikkei stock index gained 358.24 points to end at 21,575.28.

But it was well below its highs at the end of the day and brokers said afternoon selling was due to a continuing lack of confidence in the dollar.

Hong Kong's share market soared, again helped by the dollar's strength, and the Hang Seng index rose 116.93 points or 5.1 per cent to 2,403.22. Sydney's Australian All Ordinaries index was also up.

European markets took the cue and London's key blue-chip barometer, the Financial Times Stock Exchange 100-share index, began a sharp 31.2 points higher at 1,778.

At Europe's midday it had risen above 1,780.

Foreign debt consumes 36% of Indonesian budget

JAKARTA (R) — President Suharto unveiled an expansionary budget on Tuesday, but more than a third of it will go to repay Indonesia's mounting foreign debt.

President Suharto, laying down the economic foundation for his next five years at the head of South East Asia's largest nation, said Indonesia faced a difficult year due to sluggish growth and financial turmoil in industrialised countries.

But the 66-year-old president presented a budget for 1988/89 that projected a modest turnaround after two austere years when plunging oil prices threw the Indonesian economy into a tailspin.

Overall spending is set to rise by 27 per cent to 28,963 billion rupiah (\$17.5 billion) from 22,783 billion (\$13.8 billion).

Government income will be boosted by a surge in exports outside the oil sector, a nearly 30 per cent increase in foreign aid, and a 20 per cent increase in tax revenues.

President Suharto said inflation was 8.9 per cent in 1987, the same as in 1986.

Government economists have projected economic growth in 1988 at four per cent from an estimated three per cent the previous year. Other Indonesian economists project only two or

three per cent growth in 1988.

President Suharto, addressing parliament in a nationwide broadcast, said the steep decline in the value of the dollar over the last year had been disastrous for Indonesia's debt picture.

Indonesia has to pay back \$6.06 billion in the 1988/89 fiscal year, which begins on April 1, a painful jump from last year's repayments of \$4.12 billion and a five-fold increase from 1982. The debt burden consumes 36 per cent of the oew budget.

Indonesia is Asia's largest debtor with total government overseas debt estimated at \$34.6 billion, but is generally considered a good credit risk.

President Suharto, who is expected to begin a fifth five-year term as president in March, said Indonesia considers it a matter of honour to pay its debts on time.

The budget contained little to cheer Indonesia's 4.1 million civil servants and members of the armed forces. President Suharto said salaries would be frozen for the third straight year.

The new budget shows Indonesia, the only Asian member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, is weaning itself from oil.

Oil and gas account for only 40 per cent of projected export revenue, down from 49 per cent in 1987/88.

Turkish inflation rockets to 55%

ISTANBUL (R) — Consumer prices in Turkey soared 55.1 per cent in 1987, more than double the government target, the State Institute for Statistics (SIS) said on Tuesday.

Steep price rises after Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's Nov. 29 election victory helped push up the 1987 annual figure, economists said.

In December consumer prices rose 11.3 per cent compared with 6.2 per cent in November and 1.6 per cent in December 1986, according to SIS, quoted by the Anatolian News Agency.

The original government target for 1987 inflation was about 20 per cent but was undermined by a big 1987 budget deficit and gross national product growth of 6.8 per cent, compared with a target of five per cent.

Mr. Ozal has set a "reasonable level" of inflation as a major target but an interim budget approved by parliament for the first four months of 1988 provided for spending at levels 57 per cent higher than the 1987 average.

"It is impossible to bring inflation down to very low levels as in advanced countries... the country is still growing very fast," Mr. Ozal said.

Meanwhile, Turkey imported a record 2.15 million tons of crude oil in November mainly from Iran and Iraq, oil industry sources said on Tuesday.

Fahd scraps plan to reintroduce tax on foreigners

RIYADH (Agencies) — King Fahd Tuesday scrapped a plan to tax foreign workers only two days after it was announced and caused an uproar among expatriates in the oil-rich nation.

The official Saudi Press Agency quoted an unnamed "responsible source" as saying the king took the action "in the light of what was shown to need revision regarding the imposition of personal income tax on foreigners."

That apparently left open the possibility that the income tax plan might be reinstated after further study.

The report made no mention of the newly imposed tax on foreign corporations.

The government announced Sunday it would start taxing foreign workers and corporations after a 12-year hiatus in order to help reduce budget deficits caused by declining oil revenues.

Some three million foreigners live in Saudi Arabia. Nearly all the 30,000 Americans fall into the top tax bracket of 30 per cent scheduled under the now-cancelled plan because they earn more than 66,000 riyals (\$17,600) a year.

Company taxes went as high as 45 per cent of gross profits. Sunday's announcement shocked foreigners, many of whom took jobs in Saudi Arabia because of the high, tax-free pay offered during the oil boom years of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Workers at the King Faisal specialist hospital in Riyadh told reporters that several doctors and nurses handed in resignations following the tax announcement.

Some company officials said they would have to boost pay for workers to keep key experts. Saudi citizens and companies pay no formal tax. But they donate "zakat," about 2.5 per cent of

income, to charity as decreed by the Koran, Islam's holy book.

The tax measures were part of a 141 billion-riyal (\$38 billion) budget announced last week. It included provisions for borrowing through a bond issue for the first time since the oil boom.

Saudi Arabia, like other oil-exporting countries, began suffering budget deficits after oil prices started falling in 1982.

The crisis peaked in 1986 when oil prices tumbled from \$32 a barrel to below \$10. Saudi Arabia was forced to delay its budget for nine months.

Saudi officials at first announced that the tax scale would be identical to that imposed in the old tax law abolished in 1975-1976.

But the English-language Saudi Gazette Tuesday quoted a senior official as saying the scale would be changed.

"I assure you the scale will be changed, especially the maximum... I believe it will be very generous," the vice minister of finance and national economy, Sheikh Saleh Al Omri, said.

He also said the government had not decided on a definition of income — leaving open the possibility that benefits such as housing, schooling and end-of-contract bonuses common in the kingdom might be exempt.

The newspaper published an analysis of the new rates with a chart showing that tax rates under the old system would be slightly higher than U.S. taxes for single people earning \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year.

Economist sees poor prospects for Africa

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Africa's economy grew 1.5 per cent in 1987, a bit faster than the 1986 rate of 1.2 per cent but below a forecast of two to four per cent, a senior United Nations official said on Monday.

Mr. Adehajo Adehajo, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), said in an end-of-year message that the prospects for 1988 were gloomy because of what he described as a difficult economic environment.

Farm output grew by no more than one per cent in 1987, down from three per cent in 1986 and 2.5 per cent in 1985, mainly because of weather, civil strife and

refugee problems, he said.

The overall and farming growth rates are both well below population growth at about three per cent a year, which indicates a real decline in the average African's per capita income and food production in 1987.

ECA figures cover all of Africa but exclude white-ruled South Africa and Namibia.

Mr. Adehajo blamed the sluggish growth in 1987 on external factors such as stagnant or dwindling export earnings, the continent's foreign debt of \$200 billion and a poor international response to Africa's emergency programme for economic recovery.

Peanuts



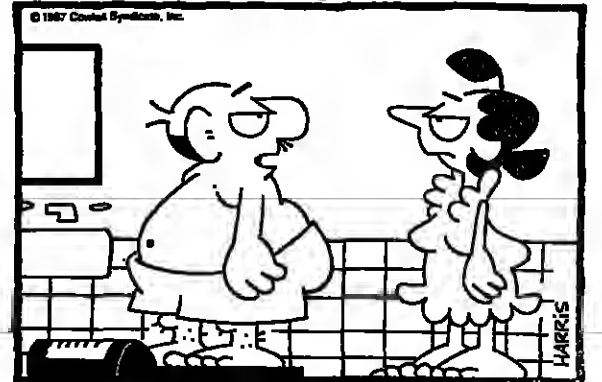
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ARGIN

VINEL

LACKET

CORLLS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: ON A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ANISE CLEFT IMPEDE DISMAL

Answer: That fortune hunter without any dollars is trying to find a rich mate without any this—SENSE

Demonstrations reported in Tibet; Austrian student held

PEKING (Agencies) — An Austrian student was being held under house arrest in a Lhasa hotel, possibly in connection with a small pro-independence demonstration by Buddhist nuns in the Tibetan capital last month, the Austrian embassy in Peking said Tuesday.

Embassy officials and Western sources in Lhasa said Felix Haller was put under house arrest three days after a Dec. 19 demonstration by about 20 nuns outside the Jokhang, one of Tibet's holiest Buddhist shrines.

The demonstration was the first reported from Lhasa since violent anti-Chinese, pro-independence disturbances in late September and early October resulted in an estimated 14 deaths. Details of the nuns' march were sketchy. Reports of some arrests could not be confirmed.

Haller, 25, is a student of the Tibetan language and has been in Tibet for more than a year, said the embassy officials, speaking on a condition of not being identified.

The officials said Chinese authorities had told them Haller was confined to his hotel because he did not have a passport, which he had sent to the embassy in

Peking for renewal. But they said police also told Haller they suspected him of possible connection with the demonstrations. No charges have been filed against him.

The embassy officials said they had sent Haller's passport back to Lhasa.

Foreign journalists were expelled from Lhasa in October, and the Tibetan government has since closed the region to all foreigners except those travelling in tour groups.

Buddhist monks, who led the demonstrations, reportedly have been forbidden to leave their monasteries and have been subjected to harsh re-education campaigns.

The embassy officials said Haller's credentials for staying in Tibet were "dubious" because he is affiliated with a university in Chengdu, Sichuan province. But

they said authorities were aware that he was in Tibet to further his studies and that before the autumn disturbances there had been no objection to his presence there.

In a separate development, Chinese police accused of mistreating a Mexican student and denying him emergency medical treatment said on Tuesday he fell from a roof and was not pushed as alleged.

Francisco Reyes said on Monday a Chinese stranger attacked him in a hotel room on Dec. 30 and he was later pushed off a roof three metres from the ground when he tried to escape.

He spoke from his hospital bed, where he lies paralysed from the chest down.

Reyes, a 33-year-old art student from Mexico City, accused police of detaining him for seven hours and treating him roughly.

On Tuesday, the official New China News Agency quoted police as saying the student fell from a roof after drinking. "Reyes was taken to a nearby police station. Policemen then took him to a hospital and informed the Mexican embassy here," the report said.

Reagan 'rushing to test' lasers

WASHINGTON (R) — The Reagan administration has reversed course on chemical lasers in a rush to test a beam weapon in space as soon as possible, independent analysts have said.

The about-face on chemical lasers reflects "a political imperative to get some kind of beam weapon up there," said Matthew Bunn, a "Star Wars" expert at the privately funded Arms Control Association.

Bunn said President Reagan was rushing to put a "whiz-bang experiment" in space that could be pointed to as an early example that such weapons can work.

"The chemical laser is the quickest way to get something exotic in space," said Steve Hildreth, an analyst at the Congressional Research Service.

Development of the chemical laser is part of Mr. Reagan's programme to create a space and ground-based shield against nuclear missiles called the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), commonly known as "Star Wars."

Testing such a weapon in space could be a violation of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty. Bunn and other experts said.

On Dec. 23, the military began the first full-scale ground tests of a laser known as Alpha, fuelled by hydrogen fluoride, the air force confirmed on Monday.

Walt Johnson, a spokesman for the Air Force Weapons Laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said the initial test sent fuel through the sprawling, two million-watt laser to check seals and components.

"An announcement of results will have to await the end of a series of tests" over several months, he said.

In recent years the Alpha programme, a carryover of research under way since 1978, had been all but abandoned by the Pentagon's SDI Organisation.

Instead, military planners had sought increased funding for a so-called free-electron laser.

S. Africa announces plan to curb violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A Counter-Insurgency Unit is stepping up action to curb black-against-black violence in the Pietermaritzburg area of South Africa where five more people died on Monday, police said.

In the worst incident reported in a daily summary of violence released on Tuesday, a group of blacks attacked four fellow blacks in the Pietermaritzburg township of Mhlabu, killing three of them and wounding a fourth.

The bodies of two other blacks, both with stab wounds, were found at Elandskop and Deda, two other townships in the hills near Pietermaritzburg in eastern South Africa.

A police spokesman in Pretoria said the Counter-Insurgency Unit was taking additional measures to curb the violence, which stems from a power struggle between two black organisations and has claimed nearly 300 lives since the

beginning of 1987.

The spokesman gave no details but indicated that more security personnel were being moved into the cluster of shanty towns where the tempo of violence has risen sharply in the past four days.

The struggle for supremacy in the townships, which are home to several hundred thousand people, is between the conservative Inkatha Movement and the leftist United Democratic Front, a coalition of anti-apartheid groups.

Both organisations denounce apartheid race segregation but disagree on how to end it.

The pro-government Johannesburg Citizen newspaper said on Tuesday the Pietermaritzburg strife was reminiscent of violence in Soweto and other townships, where the level of unrest has been sharply reduced after the government imposed a nationwide state of emergency 19 months ago.

Seoul opposition rules out political stability under Roh

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung on Tuesday said he will regain the political initiative in upcoming elections, and he predicted President-elect Roh Tae-woo will face political instability.

Mr. Kim said in an interview with the Associated Press that his Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) would continue its efforts to prove that massive fraud was used to elect Mr. Roh. He claimed Mr. Roh lacks popular support and will find it difficult to rule.

"I don't expect that there will be political stability under Roh Tae-woo's regime," Mr. Kim

Dae-Jung said.

Mr. Roh defeated Mr. Kim Dae-Jung and rival opposition leader, Mr. Kim Young Sam, on Dec. 16 in South Korea's first direct presidential election in 16 years.

Although opposition leaders have charged that the government resorted to massive fraud to win the election, many people blame the two Kims for splitting the opposition vote.

The PPD expects to emerge as the main opposition party in the National Assembly elections to be held before April, said Mr. Kim Dae-Jung, the PPD party president.

Armacost, Pakistani aides discuss Afghanistan strategy

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (Agencies) — U.S. Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost held talks about coordinating U.S.-Pakistani strategy on Afghanistan, while Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze paid an unannounced visit to the Afghan capital, Kabul.

Mr. Armacost arrived in Islamabad on Monday accompanied by Robert Oakley, Middle East director of the National Security Council staff, and met later with President Zia ul Haq.

Mr. Armacost, the U.S. State Department's third-ranking officer, was to confer Tuesday with Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo.

In Moscow, the Soviet News Agency TASS carried a commentary critical of Mr. Armacost's visit, saying it was to convey to Afghanistan's anti-Communist rebels assurances from President

Ronald Reagan that U.S. military and political support would be continued.

"The commentaries by the U.S. press in the run-up to the visit regrettably show that the new is practically absent in the New Year portfolio of the White House envoy," TASS said.

It also announced Mr. Shevardnadze's arrival in Kabul, but gave no details of his plans.

Afghan Radio said earlier that Mr. Shevardnadze arrived unexpectedly Monday and met with Najib, the Afghan leader.

According to the Kabul Radio report, Premier Sultan Ali Keshnam, Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil and other Afghan officials met Mr. Shevardnadze at the airport.

There was no indication the U.S. and Soviet envoys would meet during or after their visits to the neighbouring countries.

Soviets to visit U.S. nuclear test site

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AP) — Soviet scientists will visit the U.S. nuclear test site later this month as a first step in a process that could lead to an eventual nuclear test ban.

American scientists will visit a site at Semipalatinsk, in Soviet Central Asia, on Jan. 11-14. The U.S. government said the openness of the trip will determine how much the Soviets will be allowed to see during their Jan. 26-29 visit.

The exchanges are designed to familiarise U.S. and Soviet scientists with each other's secret testing grounds and serve as a prelude to visits later in the year during actual tests.

Officials on Monday gave details of the visits, which were announced in November following weeks of talks between U.S. and Soviet negotiators.

The visits would allow each side to try out equipment they believe could be used to verify the size of future tests and adherence to a test ban.

Talks in Geneva produced test ban treaties in 1974 and 1976, but neither treaty was ratified by the U.S. Senate, in part because of concerns over verification. Both sides agreed to adhere to terms of the treaties, but both accused the other of violations.

The 20 Soviet scientists will

spend three nights at Mercury, a tiny town 105 kilometres north west of Las Vegas that serves as the hub for the testing activity on the desert site.

The Soviets will see a vertical shaft that is being drilled for a future weapons test as well as a U.S. detection system in which a smaller shaft is drilled adjacent to the weapons shaft for seismic monitoring equipment.

They will not visit tunnels where tests are conducted to determine the survivability of U.S. space and military hardware in a nuclear strike. Some "Star Wars" research is believed to be conducted in the tunnels.

Opposition blames Aquino for not curbing violence

MANILA (Agencies) — Philippine opposition leaders on Tuesday accused President Corazon Aquino of failing to curb election campaign violence and said bloodshed would come.

The Jan. 18 local polls could be the "bloodiest in the history of Philippine elections," the Grand Alliance for Democracy said.

"Is the government so helpless it cannot stop these killings? It shows the kind of peace and order we have in the countryside," Alliance Secretary General Rene Espina told a news conference.

More than 50 people, including 22 candidates, have been killed in the run-up to the polls to select 75 provincial governors and more than 1,500 town and city mayors. Philippine elections have traditionally been bloody, with fierce rivalry among political warlords in the provinces.

Three gunmen walked up on stage during a political rally Monday on Mindanao Island, killed a pro-administration mayoral candidate and fled, officials reported.

The victim, Zosimo Bugas, was sitting next to Rep. Lorenzo Sarmiento when the attack occurred during a rally at Nahuturan in Davao Del Norte province. Mr. Bugas was a candidate for

mayor of Pando town in the region.

The Commission on Elections has postponed balloting in widely scattered areas of the country because of fears of violence. The commission holds hearings this week on proposals to delay the balloting in parts of the northern Luzon Island.

In a separate development the key prosecution witness in the Philippines' most celebrated murder underwritten three hours of defence grilling on Tuesday that tried to punch holes in his account of opposition leader Benigno Aquino's murder.

But airport worker Jessie Barcelona, who broke a four-year silence on Monday to say he had seen a soldier shoot Sen. Aquino in the head at Manila airport in 1983, appeared unshaken by defence attempts to suggest his memory was dubious.

Barcelona's startling testimony contradicted former President Ferdinand Marcos' claim that Sen. Aquino was killed by alleged Communist hit-man Rolando Galman.

Thirty-six soldiers and four civilians are charged with the murder of Sen. Aquino at Manila airport — now named after him — on Aug. 21, 1983 on his return from voluntary U.S. exile.

Hundreds injured in Yugoslav New Year shooting spree

BELGRADE (R) — Hundreds of people were wounded when Yugoslavs welcomed 1988 with traditional bursts of gunfire, the daily newspaper Borba said on Tuesday.

Borba said people across the country blazed away with revolvers, automatic rifles and machine guns on the stroke of midnight on Dec. 31 and stray bullets caused hundreds of casualties.

Yugoslavs traditionally usher in the New Year with gunfire.

firecrackers and feasting, and police often warn people to stay indoors.

Borba quoted Belgrade police as saying that at least nine people were wounded in the Yugoslav capital but believed the number to be higher.

A Belgrade woman judge, 40-year-old Sofija Licanovski, was seriously hurt when a bullet fired by a neighbour from his window whizzed into her apartment and hit her in the neck.

2 dead, 6 hurt in Brazil prison revolt

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Two prisoners were killed and six people injured Monday night when police stormed a maximum security prison in an effort to free 27 hostages held by seven rebellious inmates, officials said.

Negotiations between police and the rebel inmates continued into the night.

Sporadic gun battles in the winding passages of the decades-old Jacuri Prison caused the deaths and injuries, State Security Department spokesman Sergi Motta told the Associated Press by telephone from the southern region.

He said the two dead were prisoners, and four hostages, a police officer and an inmate were wounded. The dead and wounded were removed from the facility.

Two hostages, a man and a woman, managed to flee when the special police unit of 20 officers pushed its way into the remote prison 96 kilometres from Porto Alegre, a city of 1.3 million people some 1,500 kilometres south of Rio, Motta said.

"Police chased the remaining inmates and hostages into a smaller section of the prison," Motta said. "We know two died and six others were injured."

Motta said there were unconfirmed reports a female hostage had been stabbed to death by a prisoner.

"Police continue negotiating with the inmates," he said.

Australian prisoners release hostages

FREMANTLE, Australia (R) — A 12-hour siege in a Western Australia jail ended peacefully on Tuesday when inmates freed five prison officers taken as hostages.

Police refused to say if any deal had been negotiated to end the Fremantle Prison siege, which began when 130 prisoners armed with home-made weapons went on the rampage on Monday.

At the height of the rioting, prisoners, about a quarter of the jail's inmates, set fire to more than 100 cells and flames engulfed large sections of the prison. The roof of one of the main blocks collapsed.

Firemen were forced to fight

the blaze from outside the prison wall as fire engines were too big for the main entrance to the jail, built by 19th century convicts transported from Britain.

Police inspector Don Smoothy said he believed the riot had been spontaneous, prompted by extreme heat.

Western Australian Prison Officers Association Secretary Danny Cloghan said he was delighted the siege had ended without loss of life or serious injury.

The riot provoked accusations from a civil-liberties group that the state government had ignored repeated warnings about "primitive" conditions in the limestone

and timber prison, one of Australia's oldest.

The midday temperature in Fremantle on Monday, in the middle of the southern hemisphere summer, reached 42 degrees Celsius (108 degrees Fahrenheit).

John Doohan, secretary of the Western Australian Human Rights and Civil Liberties Watch Committee, said cells had no running water and prisoners had only a bucket as a toilet for 15 hours a day.

"Fire engines last night could not fit through the main gates. They could not get up and fight the fire," Mr. Doohan said.

'NASA letting safety take back seat'

ATLANTA (Agencies) — An internal report by NASA safety experts concludes that two years after the Challenger disaster the space agency still lacks the engineers, guidelines or leadership to ensure the safety of manned spaceflight.

The report was prepared by a committee of safety experts for senior officials with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and obtained by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, which published details in Tuesday editions.

Safety is taking a back seat to schedule pressures and costs despite agency efforts at reform, spurred by the January 1986 Challenger explosion that destroyed the shuttle and killed seven astronauts.

"As one worker put it, 'their words say safety, but their actions say don't worry about it,'" the committee said in its report.

The committee cited "disturb-

ing signs" that some pre-Challenger safety problems identified in the aftermath of the accident still exist.

NASA officials Monday acknowledged the problems singled out by the committee but said they already were working to correct them. They said the report was not meant for public distribution.

Committee members said they had hoped the report would be sent to Congress.

The eight-member safety risk assessment ad hoc committee submitted the report in August after a three-month review of the agency's revamped safety policies, procedures and personnel.

Engineers blame a design flaw for the failure of a space shuttle rocket test last month, but say resumption of U.S. shuttle flights by late summer is still possible, the Washington Post reported on Tuesday.

The newspaper said American space agency officials hoped to have enough information by the end of this week to decide whether another design can be used that would allow a late summer shuttle flight.

The test failure on Dec. 23 was the latest setback for U.S. efforts to resume shuttle flights.

A large part of the nozzle that swivels to guide a rocket lifting the shuttle into space broke apart during the test. That part of the rocket was not involved in the Challenger disaster.

NASA indefinitely postponed a shuttle flight planned for next June because of the test failure.

Engineers for the rocket's builder, Morton Thiokol, concluded on Monday that a design flaw led to the test failure, the newspaper said.

It said NASA hoped to be able to switch to an alternative design that was successfully tested in September.

COLUMNS 768

Hotelier insured against rain

MUSCAT, Oman (AP) — A Greek hotel manager received a 20,000 rial (\$52,000) check because he took out insurance against rain falling in Muscat, one of the world's hottest capitals. The average rainfall is less than 75 millimetres (2.95 inches) a year in the capital of the Sultanate. "They laughed at me, saying it was money for old rope, because it rains about once a year here," said Tolly Papayannis, 44, manager of the Al Fajal Hotel in Muscat. "But I'm a conservative sort of guy." He related that the company thought he had too much sun in a climate which tops 50 degrees Celsius (more than 120 degrees Fahrenheit) and charged him 500 rials (\$1,300) as a premium for insuring against the cancellation of an open air concert for which he had sold nearly 1,000 tickets. Papayannis had the last laugh when it rained on the night of the concert on New Year's Eve. The equivalent of two month's rain fell, making the evening a washout.

Sinatra to earn \$1m in 1 hour

GOLD COAST, Australia (AP) — Frank Sinatra will earn \$1 million for a one-hour concert, the entertainer's manager, Eliot Weisman, confirmed Tuesday. Sinatra, 72, will perform Saturday night at the New \$70-million Sanctuary Cove resort and residential complex on the Gold Coast, 80 kilometres south of Brisbane. Weisman said Sinatra's fee was not an unusual one. "This is a special event in a foreign country. It (the fee) has happened before and will happen again," Weisman said at a news conference called to end rumours that Sinatra would pull out of the engagement at the last minute. Sinatra last visited Australia in 1974 when his visit was cut short after he called female reporters "bookers" and male newsmen "drunks." At that time, Sinatra said he was unlikely to return to Australia. "Frank has put all that behind him," Weisman said. "It didn't even come up in discussions." Organisers are hoping for a crowd of 47,000 for the Sinatra concert.

Chinese go broke over wedding expenses

PEKING (R) — Chinese families spend as much as 10 years wages on weddings and young couples often taste the bitterness of debt rather than the sweetness of love, the People's Daily said on Tuesday. The Wuhan People's Broadcasting Radio network received a letter from a distraught mother whose son had forced her to finance a big wedding, the newspaper reported. After the son succeeded in getting the money, he proceeded to carry off his mother's refrigerator, the letter said. "I was so upset I went to court to sue my son," she wrote. Last month, China Youth News said couples in southern Hunan province each spent up to three years income on weddings. The publication urged Chinese to instead celebrate weddings by planting trees and having picnics. In Wuhan, a large industrial city in central China, weddings cost an average of \$2,250 — the equivalent of 10 years wages, the People's Daily said. The average Chinese urban worker in 1986 earned \$225 a year, while rural workers made about half that.

China vows to end leaky toilet problem

PEKING (R) — The Chinese government has presented a new five-year plan — to solve the national leaky toilet problem. Noisy toilets which waste water and leak because of old-fashioned design and poor quality are a problem for millions of Chinese families, the Economic Daily said on Tuesday. It is planned to produce 300,000 pieces of modern lavatory equipment a year until 1993. That will help some of China's 200 million city dwellers, though not necessarily its 800 million peasants.

'Spinster left hoard worth millions'

NICOSIA (R) — A 96-year-old spinster has left an estate of hoarded goods, including milk powder, worth millions of dollars, the Iranian News Agency IRNA has said. It said Malek Afq Akhavanpoor, who died two months ago while picking figs, had inherited the goods from her father who imported them before the 1979 revolution. Apart from the milk powder, which had decomposed, they included cameras, photocopyers and cosmetics. IRNA said in a report monitored in Nicosia. It said the government would appropriate up to 80 per cent of her assets because she had not left a will.

The Dead voted best picture of '87

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Society of Film Critics voted the Dead, the last film directed by the late John Huston, as Best Picture of 1987, the society has announced. The film, set in Ireland, is based on a story by James Joyce. The Oscar-winner died in August while producing Mr. North. "Hope And Glory," a film by John Boorman that tells the story of a boy during the German bombing of London during World War II, was given three awards; Best Director, Best Screenplay and Best Cinematography. Steve Martin was voted Best Actor for his role in Roxanne, and Emily Lloyd was voted Best Actress for her role as a rebellious teen-ager in Wish You Were Here. Richard Round, the former director of the New York Film Festival, was given a special award for his work, the society said in a statement. The votes for the 22 annual awards were tabulated Sunday. The society is made up of 39 critics from major U.S. publications.

FBI hot on the trail of pepper thieves

OAKLAND, California (R) — Thieves stole seven tons of black pepper worth about \$20,000 from a warehouse on Oakland's waterfront, the FBI said on Monday. Agents said the thieves used a forklift truck to force open a door and then cut off an alarm before making off with 88 bags of Indonesian pepper.

White House getting new barriers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Construction has started on new protective barricades in front of the White House, where President Ronald Reagan lives and conducts business. The new barricade will consist of 38-inch (97-centimetre) high posts called bollards. They will be next to the curb, spaced four feet (1.2 metres) apart and be linked by a thick chain. "When finished, it will be very attractive, much more attractive than the jersey barriers," National Park Service spokeswoman Sandra Alley said in reference to solid barriers along Pennsylvania Avenue designed to prevent a vehicle from ramming onto the White House grounds. The existing White House barriers are being moved to the curb lane of Pennsylvania Avenue until the bollards are completed. After that, they will be removed, Ms. Alley said.

Yugoslavian premier recovering

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Premier Branko Mikulic has shown marked recovery since he was hospitalised with a high fever in a Belgrade military hospital, the state Tanjug News Agency reported Monday. The state of his health after an acute infection is good and the medical treatment is being continued, a panel of doctors at the Military Medical Academy reported. There have been no details released on the nature of the illness of the 59-year-old Yugoslav premier, and it was not known how much longer Mr. Mikulic would remain hospitalised since he was admitted on Dec. 30.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK63 ♣AJ10732 ♠QJ3
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ63 ♠AK10632 ♠AQ
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Dbl Pass 1 ♠
Pass ?
What do you bid now?
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠6 ♠AQ84 ♠A73 ♠A10642
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
- Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A103 ♠A982 ♠KQ7 ♠J43
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQ854 77 ♠AJ102 ♠K93
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
?
What do you bid now?
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ73 ♠1092 ♠Q83 ♠632
Your partner opens the bidding with a demand bid of two diamonds. What do you respond?